

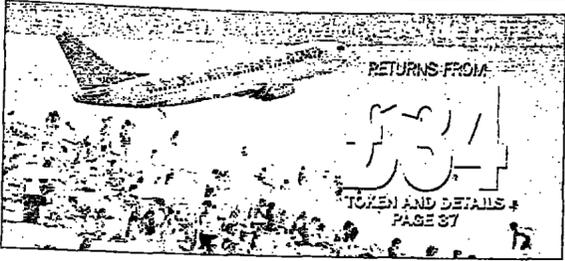
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THE TIMES

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Lurid report condemned Clinton aides put Starr in the dock

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

THE White House yesterday mounted a ferocious counter-attack on prosecutor Kenneth Starr, accusing him of titillating America in order to humiliate President Clinton.

The President's lawyers and aides fanned out across the nation's airwaves to challenge Mr Starr's legal claims and to start a backlash against Mr Starr for packing the 445-page report with lurid sexual details of the affair between Mr Clinton and Monica Lewinsky, the White House assistant.

Deploying the new tactics, Democrat Maxine Waters, a member of the House Judiciary Committee which is now debating Mr Clinton's fate, said: "Ken Starr is on trial as much as anyone."

The X-rated content of the report was the focus of national television news coverage when the Starr report detonated over Capitol Hill. Americans frantically clicked through Internet pages, or pored over columns of condensed newspaper, to find that most of the rumours of the eight-month scandal of the President's fling with a 22-year-old White House trainee were in the account.

Many newspapers carried headline warnings that the content was not suitable for children. The White House hoped yesterday that the national unease about the content would play in their favour, and prompt Americans to feel that Mr Starr went too far.

Driving Mr Starr's round-the-clock race to produce his report, he "became a hands-on editor, insisting on more sexual details", *Newsweek* said yesterday. "He said he wanted all the fact out", the magazine says. "From time to time, his staff had to explain exactly what acts Clinton and Lewinsky were engaged in."

Mr Clinton's admission of "hundreds of affairs early in my marriage", in Ms Lewinsky's account, has inevitably set off a flurry of unconfirmed stories about his relations with other women, even within the White House.

This week will be crucial in showing whether support for Mr Clinton cracks under re-velation about his behaviour, and in determining whether he survives as President.

INSIDE
If Mr Starr has failed to shock Middle America, his report is unlikely to lead to Mr Clinton's departure

— Bronwen Maddox, page 2

It is inconceivable that he should be able to restore the trust or authority of his presidency?

— William Rees-Mogg, 22

The first polls taken as America digested the Starr report suggested that most people felt Mr Clinton should face some form of formal reprimand for his behaviour. A CBS News poll said for the first time that a majority would favour censure.

But 62 per cent of respondents said that impeachment was not necessary, and only 32 per cent that it was justified. Two-thirds said Mr Clinton should not resign.

This week, in a move which could bolster public support, Mr Clinton is set to urge Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan to cut interest rates out of concern for the slowing economy, according to *Newsweek*.

The President's lawyers yesterday renewed their challenge that the President had done something wrong, but not anything meriting impeachment. "He did not perjure himself" in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case, said Mr Clinton's personal lawyer David Kendall.

Attacking the charge of perjury, the most legally troublesome in Mr Starr's list of 11 reasons for impeachment, Mr Kendall said: "Perjury is a crime where you have to intentionally lie. He did not volunteer information, but he did not perjure himself. This was a frivolous case in which

the President's political enemies were out to destroy him."

Signs emerged yesterday that Democrats in Congress were beginning to favour a formal censure rather than calling for his resignation or plunging into traumatic and unpopular hearings on his impeachment.

David Bonior, Democratic Representative from Michigan, called censure a "very real option", given that "doing nothing is unacceptable". He added: "Forgiveness is a very important part of the American character."

Republicans, many of whom want him to resign, fear that impeachment hearings could be so unpopular that they would backfire on the President's accusers.

Tom DeLay, Republican whip in the House of Representatives, said yesterday that it was "too early to say whether the President should be impeached." He added: "This is not about polls; this is about right and wrong."

Whether his President has the moral authority to continue as President.

The Judiciary Committee, which will begin debating whether there is reason to begin impeachment hearings, is considering the report behind locked doors, together with the 2,600 pages of appendices that have not been made public.

The committee will debate whether the appendices, which include transcripts of the phone calls between Ms Lewinsky and her friend Linda Tripp, will ever be made public.

It emerged last night that the President has not read Mr Starr's report. The White House deputy chief of staff, John Podesta, said: "Actually, we talked about that [on Saturday]. He told me that he was not going to read it. "I think he's decided that he's said what he has to say to the country. And he is working on the healing process. He's trying to heal his family. He is getting back to the work of the people."

Lawyers' fightback, page 2
Clinton hometown, page 3
Peter Riddell, page 22
Leading article, page 23



The Reverend Sue Irwin is escorted by police to marry Melanie Brown, the first Spice Girl to wed, and Jimmy Gulzar, a Spice Boy dancer.

Labour faces a rough ride at TUC

By Jill Sherman and Christine Buckley

TRADE union leaders yesterday gave a warning that a recession was imminent.

They launched a comprehensive attack on Gordon Brown's economic policy, including his proposals for private sector finance in public projects. The Government is now heading for a surprise defeat at the TUC Blackpool conference over one of the Chancellor's key economic policies after one of the larger unions, the GMB general workers' union withdrew its support for the plan.

John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, tried to play down the jobs crisis but trade union leaders were quick to break ranks and call for emergency action to protect jobs, warning that a recession was hours away. Mr Monks was also unable to contain a potentially damaging row over the single currency as it emerged that some of the biggest unions were split over early entry to EMU.

With clear signs that trade union leaders feel that the Government's honeymoon with them has been long enough, Tony Blair looks set for a rough ride when he attends the Congress for a dinner on Tuesday night. But today John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, will lead a group of cabinet ministers defending the Government's policy.

Mr Prescott will justify the Government's decision to transfer responsibility for the setting of interest rates to the Bank of England and underline the need for long term stability. Gordon Brown has to attend a crisis meeting of financial ministers in Japan.

Leading article, page 23
Jobs warning, page 52

Christie's 'should stop Scott sale'

By Stephen Farrell

THE SCOTT Polar Research Institute last night called on Christie's to withdraw from sale artefacts taken from Captain Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton's South Pole expedition huts that are due to be auctioned on Thursday.

Dr John Heap, executive director of the institute and chairman of the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust, added his voice to calls by Jeff Rubin, the author, in a letter to *The Times* for the candle lantern, leather sledging traces and a coat hook to be sent back to where they belong.

Christie's insists that the items belong to the retired New Zealand Air Force officer who removed them in 1957 because they were taken two years before an international treaty preserving the sites.

But Dr Heap said last night he had contacted the Foreign Office and New Zealand Government and would press Christie's today at a private viewing.

Letters, page 23

Albanian Cabinet flees armed mob

By Chris Broadhurst

CROWDS stormed the main government building in Tirana yesterday forcing Fatos Nano, the Albanian Prime Minister and his Cabinet to flee in a hail of gunfire. One protester was killed and four guards were wounded.

Europe and the United States appealed for calm, fearful that the turmoil could topple the Government and spread to neighbouring Kosovo.

The protesters, incensed by the murder on Saturday of Azem Hajdari, 35, an opposition politician, stormed the government building, opening fire on the third floor, which contains Mr Nano's offices, and then set fire to the building.

Dr Sali Berisha, the leader of the Opposition, blamed Mr Nano's Socialist Party for the killing of Mr Hajdari and warned him to resign or face "catastrophic consequences."

His followers chanted "kill, kill, kill Fatos Nano." Witnesses said Dr Berisha's followers blocked a motorway

Tirana riots, page 13

The mystery jogger

From Ian Brodie in Washington

A CLIP of a five-year-old videotape had Americans wondering whether President Clinton had entertained a second woman in the short but now infamous stretch of windowless corridor that leads from the Oval Office to the president's private study.

The clip, shown on American television, was of Mr Clinton with a dozen joggers in the Oval Office. They leave

by one door, while Mr Clinton and one of the women runners leave into the hallway.

The joggers, volunteers raising money for Mr Clinton's re-election, were invited back to the Oval Office. When the group leaves Mr Clinton asks her: "Which entrance did you come in?" She and he then leave by the other door.

The White House said she was an Arkansas neighbour.

Delaware, according to the *Second In-terview*.

The new wonder drug — a cuppa

By Alan Hamilton

AMERICA may live to rue the day it dumped that shipload of tea in Boston harbour. The world's biggest coffee-drinking nation has discovered that the alternative beverage may be the wonder drug of the age, a panacea for all manner of life-threatening diseases.

It has taken a symposium of scientists in Washington to stumble upon what this side of the Atlantic has known all along: putting the kettle on for a cuppa is a magical restorative.

Delaware, according to the *Second In-terview*.

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Malaysia	28	77	64%
New Zealand	15	49	70%
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The cat's whiskers: Sprite

Public opinion will decide whether the Comeback Kid triumphs

COMMENTARY
Bronwen Maddox

America was silent at the weekend, apart from the click of computer mice on Internet symbols and the turning of sheets of newsprint, as President Clinton's public pored over the Starr report — and agonised about whether it still wanted him to occupy the White House.

Clinton for showering them with the most explicit sexual details to emerge about a President of the United States.

The factor most capable of sending Mr Clinton packing within weeks is a collapse in his support from ordinary Americans. Yesterday, opinion polls showed his approval ratings slipping, but by only a sliver. They were still standing just below 60 per cent — an astounding tribute by the standards of any presidency.

single most astonishing phenomenon of the eight-month saga: a country whose puritanical roots still show clearly, has shown a willingness — indeed, determination — to separate the personal from the public.

list minister who delivered sermons saying that women should not wear shorts, Mr Starr is about to find out whether he is more prudent, more easily shocked, more inexperienced, and simply more interested in sexual details than many Americans.

is unlikely to lead to Mr Clinton's immediate departure. That is not to say his report is legally innocuous; on the contrary, of the 11 grounds for impeachment in his report, three are strong enough to present serious legal problems to Mr Clinton's team.

David Bonior, Representative from Michigan, made it clear yesterday that this was the solution of which Democrats are dreaming. Censure was a "very real option", he said, as he thought that "doing nothing was unacceptable". He argued that it was what many Americans wanted, as "forgiveness is a very important part of the American character".

Lawyers' battalion starts fightback

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

WHITE HOUSE

THE White House launched the full force of its counter-attack on Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, sending a phalanx of lawyers and spin doctors out to blanket the nation's airwaves yesterday.

"This isn't a case of anyone trying to justify the President's behaviour," David Kendall, his personal lawyer, said. "But there is nothing in this report which amounts to high crimes and misdemeanours."

Mr Kendall said that the Clinton team had still not seen the raw evidence behind Mr Starr's report and had been able to prepare their rebuttal only because of the flood of leaks. "It wasn't the tooth fairy [behind the leaks]; it was the prosecutors in Starr's office," he said.

After weeks of tense silence, waiting to see if the Starr report would contain further bombshells, aides sallied forth to defend President Clinton, reassured that the worst was now known.

Asked whether the President would resign, Charles Ruff, the White House counsel, said: "Absolutely not. No way. Absolutely not. Whatever people believe happened here, there are no grounds for impeachment hearings."

The core of the White

House's appeal to the public is that Mr Starr stuffed his report with explicit sexual details solely to humiliate and discredit the President. "It was wholly unnecessary to include salacious details and I hope the people will not be led down the path Starr has tried to lead us down," Mr Ruff said.

That argument won much support in Congress yesterday, from Republicans and Democrats, and from leading commentators. Richard Ben-Veniste, the former Watergate prosecutor, said: "Starr the independent counsel has merged with Starr the publisher of a supermarket tabloid". Beyond that political

appeal, the White House is launching a point-by-point legal defence. Mr Starr's first, and strongest, accusation is that Mr Clinton lied under oath in his deposition in the Paula Jones case when he denied having a "sexual relationship", a "sexual affair" or "sexual relations" with Monica Lewinsky.

The President says when Ms Lewinsky performed oral sex on him that did not constitute sexual relations. "He was giving answers to a very narrow and technical definition," Mr Kendall said yesterday. Most Americans find that risible. But it is a plausible legal defence, with one huge problem: according to Monica Lewinsky's evidence in the Starr report, Mr Clinton

touched her intimately in return. If true, that would mean his evidence was a direct lie.

Mr Starr's second most powerful accusation — connected to the first — is that the President repeated that lie on August 17 before a federal grand jury. Mr Clinton's lawyers are trying to perform the same legal manoeuvre as in the first allegation: arguing that Mr Clinton believed he was telling the truth, according to the definition of sex he thought the court was using.

The third claim likely to give the President's lawyers trouble is that he could not remember being alone with Ms Lewinsky. Mr Starr's team say that must be untrue, given the nature of events when he was alone with her.



Lawyers David Kendall, left, and Charles Ruff

William Rees-Mogg and Peter Riddell, page 22
Leading article, page 23



Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, chats yesterday with one of the US Marshals in his bodyguards

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Public's support starting to wane

Washington: Polls indicate that although President Clinton's public support is still high, it is weakening (Ian Brodie writes).

Results are often mixed, reflecting the confusion as Americans digest the full impact of Mr Clinton's lies. The polls still show approval for the way he does his job, with three showing his rating steady at between 56 and 62 per cent, where it has been for months.

A *Newweek* poll found that

POLLS

39 per cent of Americans want Mr Clinton to resign, up from 31 per cent three weeks ago, but 58 per cent said he should stay in office. Asked if Congress should begin impeachment hearings, 35 per cent said "yes", 60 per cent "no", a change in the past three weeks from 24 per cent "yes" and 69 per cent "no".

The idea of censuring the President rather than impeaching him found support among 58 per cent of respondents, according to a CNN-Gallup poll.

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THE TIMES

Home fair

What the Founding Fathers meant

CONGRESS

Wo



The House Judiciary Committee, 22 Republicans and 15 Democrats, must recommend to the full House by September 29 whether to release the rest of the Starr material

The Judiciary Committee will next conduct an inquiry into the Starr report and White House refusal to determine if there are grounds for formal impeachment proceedings. If it votes yes the full House has to agree, before October 9, when the House is in recess, or in November or December if called back into session

Newly elected Congress assembles on January 4 opening the way for the Judiciary Committee to hold televised hearings into allegations. The Committee has the power to call witnesses, including Monica Lewinsky and Linda Tripp, and to broaden the area of inquiry. The hearings could last several months before a vote is taken on articles of impeachment, which are then passed to the full House for debate

This chain of events could be triggered at any point if President Clinton signs. He would be replaced by Vice-President Al Gore who would take the oath of office. Mr Gore could pick his own vice-president who, not having been elected, would require the approval of Congress

If the House votes by a simple majority to impeach, the case is passed to the Senate for a trial, which could last three months. President Clinton could be convicted on the votes of 67 or more of the 100 Senators

SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

Hometown wrestles with faith in favourite son

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN HOPE, ARKANSAS

AS THE Starr report hit America like a hurricane, a real storm broke over Arkansas. Tropical Storm Frances howled and dumped torrential rain without respite for two days.

"I hope it isn't a comment," said Elsie Moon grimly. Hope, the little town where Bill Clinton was born, and which he romanticised in later years with talk of its giant watermelons and traditional values, is reeling at the news that its favourite son is the focus of a report so salacious that parents were fretting about keeping it away from their children.

At first they gave the impression that they could not care less about the report; no one seemed to be talking about it. The shoppers in Wal-Mart and the men tucking into the boiled shrimp and frogs legs breakfast special at the Western Sizzlin diner were full of talk of flash-floods and pile-ups on the road. The local television news led on Tropical Storm Frances and skipped over Clinton in a couple of sentences.

It soon became clear, however, that the subject was being studiously avoided and the storm was merely the

PRESIDENT'S BIRTHPLACE



Falba Lively, Mr Clinton's cousin, in her gift shop

latest welcome diversion. The local newspaper, *The Hope Star*, which proudly bears the President's features on its masthead, buried the scandal inside Friday's edition. The main headline was "County fair to get under way".

It became apparent, however, that the boyhood home of the President is in deep shock. Mr Clinton concluded his speech at the Democratic Convention in 1992 with the words: "I still believe in a place called Hope." Hope is

struggling to decide if it still believes in Bill Clinton. This is a backwoods town of 10,000 people with 44 churches and is in the heart of a dry county. These are God-fearing folk whose television weather forecasters warned them that they would need to carry umbrellas for church yesterday. But their love of Mr Clinton is immense. When many of the inhabitants are not worshipping God they are worshipping their President. Bill Clinton left the town just

after his seventh birthday to move to nearby Hot Springs, but even today he has family and many friends in the town. His cousin, Falba Lively, the daughter of Mr Clinton's great-uncle Buddy, still works in the gift shop in the Western Sizzlin diner selling a bewildering array of Clinton trinkets.

"One of my sons is at church, the other one is sleeping. They don't care anything about this. People don't," she said at first. She talked animatedly about the annual Hope watermelon festival. But then her eyes filled with tears and she became distressed. "We still love Bill Clinton. Ken Starr is right out of line."

She said that she believed Kenneth Starr was driven by a hatred of Hillary Clinton. "They worked together one time and she got the best of him. She is so much smarter than him. He should go to [jail] for life for what he has done to them."

After Mr Clinton won his first term in 1992, a band of his greatest disciples clubbed together to buy the then derelict home he had lived in for the first four years of his life. They restored it to the way it looked when he lived there; the card table where he learnt to play his beloved hearts was in the living room, the photograph of

him winning the Most Beautiful Baby contest sat on the mantelpiece. With an adjoining museum and study centre packed with pictures and memorabilia, more than 5,500 visitors have passed through since it opened last year. Barbara Streisand has donated \$10,000 for a memorial garden to the President's late mother, Virginia.

"The people in Hope are completely supportive of the President. But that doesn't mean they are not disappointed and sad," said Beckie Moore, executive director of the Clinton Birthplace Foundation. "His phrase about still believing in a place called Hope has been tossed about a lot, but he really does believe that and that's because he had a good, home-grown upbringing. That's what you get here in Hope. A lot of love and attention."

Mrs Lively invited *The Times* to join her for yesterday's worship at the Unity Baptist Church in Hope. Mr Clinton was not mentioned by name, but he was on everyone's mind at the service. "I prayed for Bill this morning but you know we just have to let the good Lord have his way," she said. As she headed for lunch at the Western Sizzlin, the rain finally stopped.



Beckie Moore at the town's visitor centre dedicated to its favourite son

What the Founding Fathers meant

BY IAN BRODIE

DEBATE is growing in Washington over just what the US Constitution means by an impeachable offence and whether President Clinton's transgressions qualify.

In referring to impeachment, the Founding Fathers spoke of "high crimes and misdemeanours". Today this phrase seems to be a contradiction in terms. We consider a misdemeanour to be less heinous than a felony, suggesting that the word's meaning could have changed since the Constitution was written more than 200 years ago.

Contemporary writings suggest that the framers of the Constitution were seeking to punish wrongs committed against the American system of government rather than driving a President from office

CONGRESS

for his personal behaviour.

At issue is whether Mr Clinton's alleged perjury and obstruction of justice add up to high crimes or misdemeanours within the meaning of the Constitution. Kenneth Starr appears to have anticipated this argument by accusing Mr Clinton of committing acts that were inconsistent with the President's constitutional duty faithfully to execute the laws of the United States.

The same tack was taken in a report submitted by the House Judiciary Committee in its findings of impeachable offences of Richard Nixon in 1974. One young aide who worked on the report was Hillary Rodham. She took the job after it had been turned down by her fiancé and Yale Law School classmate, Bill Clinton.

Supporters hope for impeachment deal

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATS

THE timing could not be worse. The Clintons and the Gores will be together in Manhattan today for the Democratic Party's biggest fundraising event of the year. However, several of New York's leading Democrats somehow will find themselves too busy to fit the visit into their schedule.

In the meantime, other Democrats were urging Mr Clinton publicly to change his incompatible statements of confessing that he had sinned while insisting he had not committed perjury. Instead, they were urging the President to signal that he would be prepared to accept a congressional censure in return for an agreement on the withdrawal of any possible proceedings towards impeachment.

The Democratic National Committee decided that its glibty fundraising show must go on, despite calls by some party leaders to call it off.

The events have been planned for months to raise \$25 million (£2 million) for Democrats trying to win election to Congress in November. It will be the first time the Clintons and Gores have spent so much time in public together since the President admitted his affair with Monica Lewinsky.

The high point will be a sold-out performance of the

Broadway musical *The Lion King* to be attended, as the New York joke has it, by the "Lying King". Earlier, there will be lunch for 100 people at the tri-level flat of Denise Rich, a songwriter and socialite whose former husband fled to Switzerland after being indicted for fraud. The price of admission: \$50,000 per couple.

Geraldine Ferraro, who ran unsuccessfully for Vice-President in 1984, said she would not have time to attend any of the events because she is running in the Democratic primary for the Senate tomorrow. "I've got to get out the vote," Ms Ferraro said, adding that Mr Clinton's behaviour had been a shame, but not bad enough to ask him to resign.

Candidates for other offices also pleaded that they were too busy pounding the wards and knocking on doors to be socialising with the Clintons and Gores. The truth is, no one running for office in a tight race wants to be too closely identified with the President at this particular time.

At the same time, motorists have been warned of gridlock when the motorcades of both the President and the Vice-President tie up Manhattan's already choked traffic. Security will require key arteries

such as FDR Drive on the East River to be closed for hours at a stretch.

In urging Mr Clinton to end his legal quibbling, Bob Kerrey, a Democratic senator, said it was inconsistent for the President to confess he had sinned while his lawyers were challenging Kenneth Starr's claim that his earlier statements denying a sexual relationship with Ms Lewinsky were false.

"The President and the President's lawyers are now saying two different things," Mr Kerrey said. In many ways, the lawyers were making it more difficult for the people and Congress to come to a decision about Mr Clinton.

Similarly, Leon Panetta, the former White House chief of staff, told *The Washington Post* that it was time for Mr Clinton to "stop quibbling" about whether he lied about his sexual relationship with Ms Lewinsky. It was clear he had misled the country and he needed to co-operate with Congress, not engage in the same tactics of the past seven months.

A censure or formal reprimand would make sense and would spare Congress from six or seven months of debate and more damage about possible impeachment.

Mr Panetta said: "This presidency is never going to be the same and that is something Mr Clinton is going to have to bear. That is toll enough."

World press opinion divided

BY CHRIS BROADHURST

MEDIA

NEWSPAPERS were dominated yesterday by coverage of the Starr report. Many editorials in the American press called for President Clinton to resign. *The Washington Post* concluded that "Mr Clinton's behaviour is at the margins of impeachability".

The New York Times said: "A President who had hoped to be remembered for the grandeur of his social legislation will instead be remembered for the tawdriness of his tastes and conduct." *The Detroit Free Press* said: "There was a time not too long

ago when the Bill Clinton story was truly an inspiration — a dirt-poor kid who fulfilled an improbable dream to become President of the United States. Now he is truly an embarrassment."

The Arkansas Democrat Gazette said: "The report ought to come with mouth-wash to get rid of the taste."

Italy's *La Repubblica* was critical of Americans for paying so much attention to Mr Clinton's liaisons with Ms Lewinsky. "We Europeans can only stand aghast at a nation

which is so infantile it actually considers bringing down a President for doing what goes on all over the world."

In France, *Le Journal du Dimanche* said: "More than ever, the Comeback Kid seems determined to fight." The weekly magazine, *Marianne*, called Mr Starr's report "the first porno assassination in history." *Le Monde* entitled its editorial "Hell is American."

Hong Kong's English-language daily, *The South China Morning Post*, said: "The time has come for Bill Clinton to resign himself to the fact that his fight for survival has reached its end."

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A quarter of girls in care become pregnant

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
SOCIAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

ONE in four young women in institutional care is either pregnant or already a mother by the time she leaves to set up home on her own, according to a report by the National Children's Bureau.

Rates of teenage pregnancy ranged from 14 to 25 per cent among girls aged under 20 who were in care or who had recently left care, compared with 3 per cent for the nation as a whole.

Also, girls who had children while being looked after by a local authority tended to have less support than those who did not become pregnant.

The report, funded by the Department of Health, raises serious questions about the role of local authorities in protecting vulnerable young people in their charge and is likely to be scrutinised by ministers, who have pledged to cut the rate of unwanted teenage pregnancies.

Judith Corlyon, co-author of the report, said that most of the 30 youngsters she interviewed for the study had become sexually active at a very young age. This was prompted partly by peer pressure and partly by a need for affection — something some of them had rarely received from their own families.

One young woman said: "You feel left out so you do it because everyone else does." Another said that the lives of youngsters in care were so unpleasant that "they feel better if they are going to bed with someone".

Ms Corlyon said: "What differentiated this group was a lack of self-esteem, which meant they succumbed more easily to pressure."

Few of the girls interviewed had wanted to become pregnant. As a life in care had resulted in frequent interruptions to their schooling, many had not received much in the way of sex education.

The study called for better sex education for youngsters in care and closer co-ordination between different caring agencies to improve services for young mothers once they left care.

Author creates a storm over 'plundered' polar artefacts

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

POLAR experts have accused Christie's of damaging Antarctica's cultural heritage by including artefacts from Captain Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton's South Pole expeditions in an auction later this week.

In a letter to *The Times* Jeff Rubin, author of the Lonely Planet guide book *Antarctica: A Travel Survival Kit*, calls for four lots removed from the explorers' base huts 41 years ago to be withdrawn from the London sale catalogue and returned to their historic sites.

The Foreign Office has also written to the auction house seeking information on the artefacts' ownership, and to the New Zealand government — within whose Antarctic territories the huts fall — informing them of the sale.

The objects include a candle lamp from Shackleton's Cape Royds hut on his 1907-09 expedition; leather sledge straps from Captain Scott's 1902-04 Discovery Expedition Hut at Hut Point; a brass coat-hook from Scott's Cape Evans cubicle on his final, doomed 1910-1913 expedition and a glass beaker, crucible and bottles from Dr Edward Wilson's hut on the same trip. The objects, lots 210-214 among hundreds of works of art and memorabilia in Christie's Exploration and Travel sale on September 17, are expected to fetch £13,000. The lamp alone is valued at between £3,000 to £5,000.

They were taken from the huts in 1957 by John Claydon, a retired Royal New Zealand Air Force Wing Commander who ran air support for the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic expedition. Claydon's expedition, the first to achieve a land crossing of the continent, set up its own bases near the historic huts used by Scott and Shackleton, which still had food tins, remains of equipment and skeletons of animals lying around in the open. However it was not until two years later, under the 1959 Antarctic Treaty, that the sites became protected and visitors were banned from removing such objects.

In his letter to *The Times* Mr Rubin concedes that during the 1950s, "it was a common practice for the rare visitor to Antarctica to take souvenirs from the camps of previous expeditions".

But he points out that attitudes to preservation of historic sites have changed, and says: "For Christie's to auction



Shackleton: items include his lamp

such irreplaceable artefacts of Antarctica's history suggests to me either woeful ignorance of — or merely disregard for — the spirit of the treaty."

His concern is echoed by the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust and other groups in Britain and New Zealand. Captain Pat McLaren, honorary secretary of the UK trust, said his New Zealand counterparts had already visited Wing Commander Claydon in a vain effort to persuade him to remove the items from sale.

"We feel very strongly about this. As the Christie's catalogue itself acknowledges, Claydon took these things out of the abandoned huts in 1957, and he took them as souvenirs. Our chairman is writing to the chairman of Christie's expressing our concern about the situation, particularly about the ownership, the morality and to point out that these artefacts should go back whence they came."

The issue echoes the controversy over accusations of looted art which last year led Sotheby's to issue a new code of conduct banning the sale of works of art and artefacts if staff suspected they had been looted.

At a public viewing yesterday Christie's associate director Nicholas Lambourn defended the artefacts' inclusion in the sale. He pointed out that by removing objects from earlier expeditions Wing Commander Claydon only did what Scott himself had done in 1901 by taking a flag from Borchgrevink's 1899 wintering hut. He also said that expeditions often deliberately left items for future trips to use, and that in 1957 the huts were open to blizzards and ice so, by removing objects, later visitors were preserving what might otherwise have been lost or destroyed.

Mr Lambourn admitted, however, that it was a "sensitive issue" and confirmed that Christie's had received a letter from the Foreign Office. "They have made an inquiry to us seeking information about title," he said last night.

"To the best of our knowledge Wing Commander Claydon has good title. The Antarctic area is a fairly knew areas for us. There might be examples like this where there

became the first Briton to walk solo and unsupported to the South Pole, agreed that it would be "sacriligious" for modern visitors to take even a stone or a tin from historic sites, but said problems arose with material taken many years ago.

David Hempleman-Adams, the polar explorer who in 1995

romantic side of me would be that they should be returned to the original site. On the other hand you are talking about hundreds of thousands of artefacts taken over the years. Should they start hunting for them to send them all back?"

"It is a very fine line. The

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Shackleton's lamp, from his 1907 Antarctic expedition, is estimated at £3,000

are grey areas where things can be thrashed out. We are offering these lots and we are happy with title at the moment. The key thing is that the treaty came in two years after the items were recovered."

David Hempleman-Adams, the polar explorer who in 1995

romantic side of me would be that they should be returned to the original site. On the other hand you are talking about hundreds of thousands of artefacts taken over the years. Should they start hunting for them to send them all back?"

"It is a very fine line. The

Rival bid could be made for Manchester United

BY CAROL MIDDLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING investment bank yesterday confirmed that it had been asked to speak to Manchester United's financial advisers on behalf of a mystery client.

Salomon Smith Barney said it had been instructed to talk to HSBC Holdings, advisers to the football club, but did not identify the client.

The announcement immediately sparked speculation that a rival offer may be made for the club following BSKyB's £623 million bid, which was backed by Manchester United's board last week.

A spokeswoman for Salomon Smith Barney said: "We have been asked by a client to approach HSBC for information on Manchester United." However, she added: "This is very ordinary practice when a large bid has just been made for a company — other interested parties will consider the position." She dismissed as "rubbish" suggestions that the US bank itself was planning a rival bid.

BSKyB, in which News International, which owns *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake, has already received undertakings from the directors of the club, who own 17 per cent of the business, that they will sell their shares to BSKyB.

Manchester United's board, however, would be legally bound to consider any offer of greater value than that from BSKyB. A spokesman for BSKyB remained "very confident" that the company's bid for the club would be successful. He said: "We think it [BSKyB's offer] is in the best interests of the club, the fans and the shareholders of Manchester United."

Maurice Watkins, one of Manchester United's directors and its solicitor, said that he had no comment to make about Salomon Smith Barney's statement.

A Gallup poll for the *Sunday Telegraph* found that 47 per cent of those questioned believed the Government should intervene to block the takeover of the club by BSKyB, compared with 40 per cent who said it should not.

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VOICES WITH AUTHORITY FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

Arrival of Viagra will cause chaos, BMA says

IN A warehouse somewhere in northern France, Pfizer has been assembling stocks of the little blue pill that impotent men all over Europe have been awaiting for months. Their wait should come to an end tomorrow when the European Commission is expected to approve last month's recommendation by the European Medicines Evaluation Agency that Viagra should be licensed. Once the Commission completes that formality, the pill can be prescribed throughout the European Union, and Pfizer has been building stocks in anticipation of demand.

As soon as the licence is issued, containers of the pill will be dispatched to destinations all over Europe. Some will be heading to Britain, where major distributors are making plans to speed it to every corner of the country. UniChem, one of the largest pharmaceutical suppliers, will be sending stocks from its central depot at Letchworth in Hertfordshire to its 12 satellite depots, making it possible for any chemist to receive an order within three hours.

Brussels is expected to approve licensing of anti-impotence drug tomorrow. Ian Murray reports

What nobody really knows yet is who will be able to get it, apart from private patients who are able to pay a specialist to treat their impotence by prescribing it for them.

Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, told the Commons in June that once licensed Viagra would be available on the National Health Service to meet clinical need. However, the popularity of the pill in the United States since it became available in March has alarmed the Health Department, health authorities and GPs.

There are an estimated 2.5 million impotent men in Britain, and no one knows how many of them will want to try Viagra. The British Medical Association calculates that if all these men were prescribed the drug a cost would exceed £1 billion a year. But specialists believe that

only about 250,000 of those for whom Viagra is suitable will want a prescription, adding £100 million to the annual NHS drugs bill.

Pfizer, the drug's manufacturer, claims that no more than 150,000 men are likely to be prescribed the pill regularly. The company says if each of them were given one or two tablets a week the annual bill would be no more than £50 million compared with the £12 million now spent on impotence treatment.

The medical profession is clamouring for national guidelines; doctors do not want to find themselves in the invidious position of having to ration the drug. If all those in clinical need who ask for help are to be treated fairly, the BMA argues, the Government must tell them how to decide who will receive it. The Government has re-

ferred the matter to the Standing Medical Advisory Committee, but has yet to hear back. It hopes to issue guidelines as soon as possible after the licence is issued, but is not saying when that will be. In the meantime, specialists are expecting chaos.

"Quite frankly I expect it to be hell," said Derek Machin, a Liverpool urologist, who has been negotiating with his local health authority for a budget for Viagra. "We have no idea what is going to hit us and are just not prepared."

One idea is that the Government may insist that Viagra can be prescribed only by urologists after referral from a GP. However, there are only 400 urologists in Britain. They are already one of the most overworked specialties with the longest waiting lists. If they had to vet clinical need in all impotent men it would extend the waiting lists even further, meaning men with serious conditions would go longer without treatment.

Julian Shah, consultant urologist at the Middlesex Hospital in London, said that Viagra was actually cheaper than other treatments, such as injections, available on the NHS. "These people are suffering from a genuine condition for which there is now a good treatment," he said. "I do not see how we can be so heartless as to deny them the use of it."

The Impotence Association is not expecting a stampede of applications from impotent men. "Nine out of ten men suffering from it don't see their doctor about it," said Ann Craig, its director.



Air sports, including skydiving, claimed more than 50 victims from 1988 to 1992

Sports injuries show rugby is the riskiest

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

ABOUT 160 people die from sports injuries every year, mostly during water and air sports, motor racing and horse riding. More than 500,000 are taken to hospital after overdoing exercises. Although rugby is the most dangerous game, even golf, bowls and snooker claim victims.

A survey shows that sport is a risky business. Apart from deaths and hospital cases, GPs handle about 4 million sports injuries a year and another 14 million are treated in the home.

The survey, by David Ball, of Middlesex University's environmental sciences department, looks at the relative danger of every sport based on the number of people who participate and the number of times each individual takes part. "Participation in sport and exercise carries with it a variety of risks, including occasionally fatalities and, more often, musculoskeletal injuries, risks to the heart and harm through wear and tear."

Professor Ball writes in the journal *Sports Exercise Injury*.

The figures for 1983 to 1992 show no apparent increase in the number of sports fatalities, which average 163 a year. By comparison, in 1992 there were 3,628 road fatalities, 4,521 died in accidents in the home and 400 people were killed at work. "Sport and leisure contribute a fairly modest amount to the overall total of deaths, though not one which should be disregarded or undervalued."

Between 1988 and 1992, figures show water-related sports are the most dangerous, with 191 drowning while swimming, 69 lost boating or sailing and 50 dying while fishing. On land, motor sports (65 deaths), followed by horse riding (62), and mountaineering (51) claimed most lives.

Among games, soccer, with 14 deaths, had the most fatalities, with rugby, hockey and cricket recording two each. Three badminton players died, as did nine people while

jogging. There was one fatality each over the five years in tennis, golf and gymnastics. Air sports, mostly light aircraft and hang-gliding, claimed 51 victims.

Professor Ball worked out a relative risk factor for each sport, showing how many among 100,000 participants in each sport receive injuries severe enough to put them in hospital. On this basis, rugby emerges as the most dangerous game, with 440 players from every 100,000 participating in games on one afternoon needing hospital treatment.

Although soccer players account for 44 per cent of all hospital cases, the game is less than half as dangerous as rugby, with only 200 out of every 100,000 receiving serious injuries. Cricket, hockey and skiing are equally dangerous, with 130 hospital cases for each 100,000.

Overall, for every sports fatality, 4,000 people need hospital treatment and 25,000 see their GP or practice nurse.

GAMES OF CHANCE			
Fatal accident rates		Sports in order of risk of injury	
Activity	Number of fatalities England and Wales 1988-92	Activity	Per 100,000 participating
Swimming	151	Rugby	440
Boating and sailing	69	Soccer	200
Motor sports	65	Cricket	130
Horse riding	62	Hockey	130
Air sports	51	Skiing	130
Mountaineering	51	Netball	82
Fishing	50	Athletics (track & field)	69
Soccer	14	Motor sport	58
Running/jogging	9	Baseball	39
Badminton	3	Squash	29
Cricket	2	Riding/horse sport	26
Hockey	2	Climbing/mountaineering	17
Rugby	2	Tennis	15
Golf	1	Badminton	14
Gymnastics	1	Fishing	11
Tennis	1	Sailing	11
		Running/jogging	7
		Golf	5
		Bowls	3
		Swimming	2
		Table tennis	1
		Table stick sport	0.2

Death of diver prompts breathing gear alert

By Lisa Thomlinson

A DIVER found dead in 12ft of water after an extensive air and sea search was using a new type of equipment that has been blamed for the deaths of three people this year.

Keith Milburn, 44, a business consultant from Carryduff in Belfast, had been diving for edible crabs with five others from a boat off Cloghan Head, near Ardglass, Co Down. He completed his dive safely but returned to the water to retrieve a piece of equipment and failed to resurface at 7.30pm on Saturday. His body was found near the diving site at noon yesterday.

Mr Milburn is thought to have died of oxygen poisoning. He was using breathing apparatus that has only been on the market a year, and is a modern version of equipment developed by the military during the Second World War. It works by re-oxygenating exhaled air by filtering it through a series of chemicals, to be re-breathed by the diver.

The British Sub Aqua Club has warned its 50,000 members not to use it while they carry out a safety check following the previous three deaths.

Ian Murdoch, watch manager at Belfast Marine Rescue Subcentre, said: "It is not safe. Four people have died now and thousands of these diving sets have apparently been sold. One death is too many, but four from the same system is not acceptable. This needs to be looked into urgently. Divers using the equipment are either not heeding the warnings or they are not using the system properly."

The system, which costs about £3,000 compared with a few hundred pounds for normal breathing apparatus, has proved popular for underwater photography because it does not generate bubbles. During the war it enabled divers to sneak unseen into enemy harbours. It also allows divers to stay under water for up to 12 hours.

David Vincent, the owner of DV Diving in Bangor, Co Down, said he may stop selling the re-breather gear after the most recent death. He said that he had taught the new system to a diver, Nick Gatto, who died while using it off Cork last month.

Divers using the equipment have also died off the Norfolk coast and in the English Channel in the last year.

He said: "I would only train qualified divers to use the equipment. It is complex and that is what I aim to explain to the divers. It is not as simple to use as an open circuit breather."

THE HEALTH GUIDELINES THAT WILL DISAPPOINT

A MIDLANDS health authority will disappoint thousands of men seeking Viagra if the drug is licensed, by telling GPs not to prescribe it (Mark Henderson writes).

North Nottinghamshire health authority has taken action because of concerns about cost and safety. GPs were told that new impotence treatments should be available only in hospitals, and were advised not to refer new patients to specialist clinics until resources permit. The authority said it had problems funding existing impotence treatments, and

that demand for Viagra was likely to exceed available funds. It raised concerns about safety of the drug, which has been linked to more than 20 deaths in the US, and advised GPs not to prescribe new drugs until they had been licensed for a year. Richard Hook, chairman of the local medical committee, said doctors had accepted the guidelines reluctantly.

Jeffrey Worrall, chief executive of the authority, said: "What we are doing is what any prudent health authority in the country will be doing."

Boys feel pressure to pick tough toys

By Ian Murray

BOYS as young as four try to make themselves look more masculine when they play with their peers than when they are alone, psychologists have discovered. They carefully choose toys that males are supposed to prefer and show rigid gender stereotypes.

The researchers from Essex University found that girls and older children were nowhere near as fixed in their attitude to gender as young boys. Boys aged from four to six seemed very preoccupied with showing their playmates how masculine they were.

The researchers asked boys and girls up to nine years old whether they played games or with toys traditionally linked to one sex or the other. It was only the younger

boys who insisted they did not play with dolls and preferred very male toys.

The children were tested by being asked what toys characters in stories were likely to want. The young boys chose masculine toys even for characters who were effeminate. When asked to describe themselves by answering a set of questions, only the young boys were keen to show their masculinity. This was even more evident when they answered questions in a group.

The paper, presented to a British Psychological Society conference yesterday, said the results highlighted the early emergence of concerns about social evaluation in children and that those concerns were different for boys and girls.

Quiz show makes BT a millionaire

By Carol Midgley, Media Correspondent

VIEWERS trying to get on the television game show *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire* are lining the pockets of BT and the programme makers. It was disclosed last night, BT has earned about £1 million from the premium rate phone lines and Celador, the company behind the series, is on course to make a similar amount.

So far the largest amount won by a contestant is £64,000. Technically, contestants can win £1 million if they answer 15 general knowledge questions correctly.

Last night Celador promised that its profits would either go to charity or towards making a second series. BT said that operating costs had to be deducted from the figure.

In order to try to win a place on the show, callers paid £1 for a two-minute call to an 0891 number that gave them the chance to answer a general knowledge question. More than three million people rang the number. BT rented the lines to Celador for 17p a minute. The volume of calls was so great that it interfered with the taped telephone messages from the show's host, Chris Tarrant.

The telephone watchdog, the Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services, has received more than 20 complaints. But it will not be taking any action because the problem was technical and not deliberate, a spokesman said.

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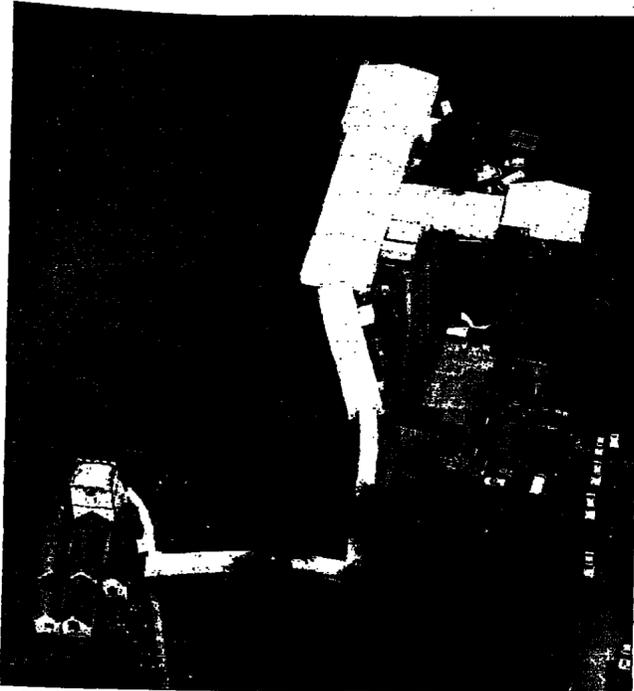
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Melanie Brown's mansion, left; David Beckham, the Manchester Utd and England footballer and his fiancée Victoria Adams (Posh Spice); Emma Bunton (Baby Spice); a paparazzi viewpoint; and Melanie Chisholm (Sporny Spice)

First Spice Girl gets spliced

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH AND CAROL MIDGLEY

ENTERPRISING locals in Little Marlow, Buckinghamshire, made the wedding of the first Spice Girl to get married a money-spinning event of which the singer's agents would have been proud.

As the world's media gathered outside the garden of Melanie Brown's mansion — where she wed Jimmy Gulzar, a Spice Boy dancer with the group — Philip Emmett, a farmer, charged £5 to park in his yard. The primary school charged £20.

Mr Emmett's brother, Nick, whose house overlooks the manor which Ms Brown — Scary Spice — recently bought for £2.25 million, rented his bathroom to paparazzi for £500 and a share of any profits.

A massive security operation surrounded the wedding ceremony and subsequent party to protect the couple's exclusive deal with OK! magazine, reported to be £350,000.

The wrought-iron gates outside the house were draped with white sheets. A canvas tunnel had been built to cover the route from a gate in the mansion garden wall to the nearby church door, shielding guests from view.

Tight security was extended throughout the village. There

were traffic cones on both sides of the winding lanes and police and security guards lined the streets. Some 15 police officers cordoned off the road to the house. Residents were asked to move their cars to allow guests to drive freely through the village.

OK! had ten security guards to protect its investment and the Spice Girls employed another 30. One sat at the back of the church, before sweeping the stone building for remote-controlled cameras.

Two photographers had tried to sleep outside the church in their cars the night before the wedding, but one was arrested and spent the night in a police cell.

All of the 150 guests at the ceremony in the 12th-century church of St John the Baptist obeyed instructions to wear white. The three other Spice Girls arrived separately and were mobbed by the crowds.

Ms Brown, who is three months pregnant, was married by a female vicar, the Rev Sue Irwin. The three-tier wedding cake had nude figurines of the bride and bridegroom on the top.

Geri Halliwell, formerly known as Ginger Spice, who left the band earlier this year, is understood to have declined an invitation to attend.

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Leading article, page 23



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Dogs' microchip ID could be compulsory

Animal welfare groups support the scheme, reports Roland Watson

BRITAIN'S 5.3 million dog owners would be forced to pay for their pets to be identified by microchip implant and logged on a national database under proposals expected to win ministerial support.

The compulsory registration scheme would aim to cut the bill for rounding up strays, housing them or putting them down, which costs taxpayers tens of millions of pounds each year.

The charge to the owners of the country's seven million dogs could be a one-off fee of about £30 for the animal's lifetime or an annual payment of about £5. Surplus funds would go to a national dog wardens' scheme to police the system and promote responsible dog ownership. Officials at the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions have started discussing with the RSPCA and Kennel Club how such a scheme would work and are examining draft proposals drawn up by both groups. The RSPCA is

pushing for legislation in the next session of Parliament, which begins in November.

The principle of a national dog-registration scheme was backed by Labour in opposition, but the policy did not make it into the party's election manifesto. Ministers have waited for animal welfare groups to come forward with plans before taking up the issue. A spokeswoman for the Department said the idea of registration "underpins" government thinking and that proposals would be given "full consideration" by Alan Meale, the junior environment minister responsible. Although it is

unlikely the Government would take up a valuable slot in its crowded legislative programme to draw up a bill itself, it is believed ministers would support a Private Member's Bill on the issue.

Although recent surveys by the RSPCA show support for the idea it is likely that registration would be opposed by some owners as a "dog tax". Final proposals would almost certainly need to include exemptions for pensioners and the blind, and possibly working dogs, for them to win approval. When a similar proposal was put before the Commons in 1990 it was

defeated by only three votes.

Animal welfare groups believe they can mount a powerful case for registration as a saving to the public purse and protector of animals. Up to 135,000 stray dogs are picked up each year, of which more than 20,000 are put down because their owners can not be traced. Latest figures show that strays cost local authorities — which by law have to house them initially — more than £16 million a year, and police forces a similar sum. There are substantial costs to the NHS from injuries caused by strays from road accidents to dog bites. Insurance claims, lost working days and a tax on livestock all add to the bill.

Supporters of the scheme say hundreds of people escape prosecution for cruelty each year because they cannot be matched with their animal, something which could be done immediately once its identification chip was read by a scanner.

PET FOOD PRICE INQUIRY DEMANDED

AN MP is to ask the Office of Fair Trading to investigate pet food prices. Arcty Kirkwood, Liberal Democrat MP for Roxburgh and Berwickshire, said he had been told that prices were so high that it could be cheaper to feed pets on smoked salmon. He was concerned that the elderly might be paying too much to feed their pets and had written to the OFT. No-one was available to comment from the Pet Food Manufacturers' Association.



The umpire "Dickie" Bird was hit by a ball during his final match yesterday. Out on top, page 37

Top Jewish school is first to fail Ofsted test

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

THE first Jewish school to fail an Ofsted inspection has been ordered to rethink a timetable that devotes more than half of each day to prayer and religious study.

Pardes House and Beis Yaakov primary schools, in Barnet, North London, merged in 1996 to meet the requirements of the state system. But a forthcoming Ofsted report says the narrow curriculum and high proportion of unsatisfactory teaching produces unacceptable standards of general education.

The ultra-Orthodox school continues to operate on the original sites for boys and girls, several miles apart, adhering to Torah values. The inspection report says governors and senior staff have been "slow in coming to terms with the responsibilities and demands associated with voluntary aided status".

The Ofsted team, who carried out their inspection in June, said: "The small proportion of curriculum time allocated to the teaching of subjects in the secular curriculum has a significant impact on standards."

Jewish schools were the first non-Christian religious foundations to be admitted into the state system. Their success paved the way for the Government's decision earlier this year to approve the first Muslim state schools.

The majority of the 678 pupils at Pardes House and Beis Yaakov, according to the report, "are not exposed to the media or read secular literature". Larry Rosenberg, Director of Communications for the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said: "I am certain that schools such as Pardes House, which serves a very Orthodox sector of the community, will have to work hard to adapt to the state system. The trust has always stressed the religious element of education, but that does not mean that the rest of the curriculum cannot grow stronger. It is more than possible to approach the whole curriculum Jewishly without compromising standards."

The Board of Deputies has carried out its own inspection of the school, which Mr Rosenberg said was also critical. The school could not be contacted for comment.

Government sources denied reports yesterday that ministers had decided to reappoint Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, and award him a 40 per cent pay rise. A spokesman for David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, said no decision had been made on the renewal of Mr Woodhead's contract, which has almost a year to run.

Twin sisters killed while riding bikes

Twin sisters were killed by a car as they cycled along an unlit road at night without lights on their bikes.

Jodie Scrivens, 12, and her sister Jayne were found by their father, Raymond, who was searching for them after they failed to return home on time from a friend's house on Friday night.

Jodie died at the scene and Jayne died later in hospital after the accident a mile from their home in Bushbury, Walsingham, West Midlands. The driver of the car has not been charged.

Safety first

A council appointed a bus supervisor to make sure that children's seatbelts were fastened as they travelled to Barrington primary school in Shepperton, then sent buses without belts. Cambridgeshire County Council said the supervisors had other duties.

Murder charge

A man aged 19 has been charged with the murder of Keith Weller, 58, who was found dead at his home in Bridport, Dorset, on Thursday. The man, from Chelmsford, Essex, is due to appear before magistrates at Weymouth, Dorset, today.

Search called off

The search for a missing fisherman off the northeast coast has been called off. Jim Maidens, 51, of Saltburn-by-the-Sea, Redcar, had been fishing with a colleague in a 20ft open boat about 50 yards out to sea when the boat capsized.

£11bn illness bill

Sickness and other forms of absence cost firms £11 billion last year, with public sector workers taking the most time off, a survey for the Confederation of British Industry found. An estimated 197 million working days were lost through absence in 1997.

Vicar rejected

A woman vicar has lost her job after villagers complained that she was separated from her husband. The Rev Sheila Stevenson was about to be installed as vicar of five villages near Cambridge when objections were raised by Croxton parochial church council.

Sandbar rescue

Lifeboatmen rescued five young men who were stranded by the rising tide after driving a car on to a sandbank near Porthmadog in North Wales. A tractor was unable to reach the car, which was eventually covered by the sea and marked with a buoy.

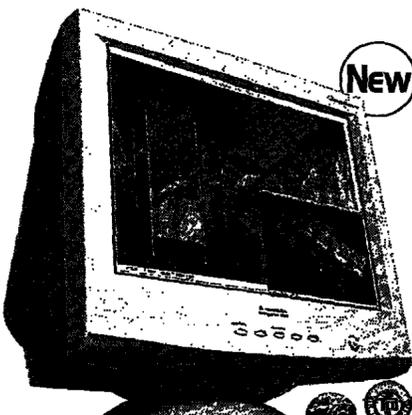
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سكزا عن الامل

Scholars find fresh clues to origin of writing

THE earliest writing system was developed in ancient Egypt, not Mesopotamia, as scholars have traditionally asserted, according to new research.

Vivian Davies, a leading scholar and keeper of Egyptian antiquities at the British Museum, said that what we would regard as full writing — a script enabling authors to express complex ideas — first appeared in Egypt.

It was thought that the earliest writing system was invented by the Sumerians in Mesopotamia towards the end of the fourth millennium BC and that the idea was borrowed by the Egyptians at the beginning of the First Dynasty, around 3100BC. However, recent discoveries at Abydos have shown that the Egyptians had an advanced system of writing even earlier than the Mesopotamians, some 150 years before, between 3000BC and 3350BC.

He added: "We are not trying to be competitive with our Mesopotamian colleagues. But there is very early evidence from Egypt that developed writing originated there."

The findings emerged from a discovery made by a German expedition, headed by Günter Dreyer, of the German Archaeological Institute, which revealed a dynasty of kings before the First Dynasty. Traditionally, the history of what is one of the world's greatest civilisations has been divided into 30 dynasties. But a new dynasty, which reigned in about 3250BC, and which has been named Dynasty 0,

Dalya Alberge on a claim that Egypt, not Mesopotamia, developed the first system

has been found at Abydos. Archaeologists have discovered hieroglyphics there dating from 150 years before the First Dynasty.

Among them are 150 labels in ivory or bone which are thought to have been attached to bolts of linen. Carved into their surfaces are hieroglyphic signs that spell out phonetically the names of places from which goods such as wine jars originated. Mr Davies singled out one label in which a lightning bolt spells out the word for "grh", meaning darkness, and a snake denotes the letter "dj", which, with the mountain sign, writes "djw", the word for mountain.

Egyptian hieroglyphic writing, which Mr Davies says is "one of the world's most beautiful scripts", consists of hundreds of different pictures of natural and man-made things. However, the script is not simply a primitive picture writing, but a sophisticated system capable of communicating complex information. The Egyptians had different types of signs: some stand for complete words, usually the object they represent, but most

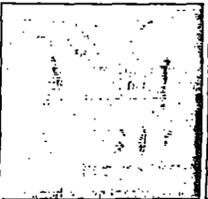
signify sounds or combinations of sounds, like the characters of our alphabet. For example, the reed leaf stands for the sound "r", the mat for the sound "p". Together these signs phonetically spell "trp", the word for wine.

In Mesopotamia the earliest forms of writing are an accounting system, simple lists of commodities and numerals, which took several hundred years to develop into a fully phonetic writing system. In Egypt, there is no such forerunner — the script appears in a fully developed form. From the beginning, it incorporated signs for sounds.

Mr Davies added: "A parallel for such a process is known from more recent times. In AD1444 the Korean script, still regarded as one of the world's most efficient, was invented by order of the king. In Egypt, this invention corresponds with the birth of the Egyptian state and its growing administrative and bureaucratic needs. Some of the earlier uses of this writing system were to record the receipt of tax, and denote the origin of commodities and their production date. It was not until much later that surviving works of literature and historical records were composed, but the capacity to create such texts was already in place at this early time."

The theory is explored in Egypt, a book to be published on September 14 by the British Museum Press, and a five-part television series to be shown in the new year. The book is co-written by Renée Friedman, director of an American expedition to Hierakonpolis, the site of Egypt's first capital.

Commenting on the findings, Christopher Walker, a scholar of Mesopotamian antiquities at the British Museum, said: "We have no reason to quarrel over this. But we may in the end leap-frog each other. If they think they have evidence of a fully developed script at that point, we would start looking for earlier stages. You don't just jump into a fully developed system."



On the left, the lightning bolt spells "grh", or darkness. On the right, the snake is "dj", which with the mountain sign writes "djw", for mountain



The 1931 Rolls-Royce custom-built for Lord Mountbatten has a rear seat that transforms into a mattress at the tug of a discreet handle

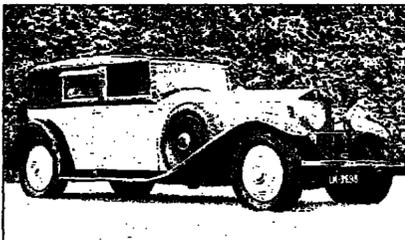
Rolls-Royce that goes like a dream

By ALAN HAMILTON

FORGET about air-conditioning, turbochargers, electric windows and CD players. There is no car accessory quite like a bed. Car restorers in Scotland have been titivating a 1931 Rolls-Royce Phantom II Sedan de Ville that was custom-built for Earl Mountbatten of Burma. It is the first they have seen where, at the gentle tug of a discreet handle, the rear seat transforms itself into a mattress capable of accommodating the car's 6ft 2in frame.

Rumour suggests that Mountbatten had the car designed for purposes which might now be described as Clintonesque. Nine years into his marriage to Edwina, Mountbatten enjoyed the attentions of a group of mature women, including Yola Letellier, the wife of a French publishing tycoon. They were drawn to him by his good looks, royal connections, his wife's money — and perhaps even his car.

Mountbatten, uncle of the Duke of Edinburgh and mentor to the Prince of Wales, was pursued by much



Mountbatten, the Phantom II Sedan de Ville and Madame Letellier, who may have been attracted to both

rumour concerning the nature of his sexuality, including suggestions of homosexuality and a preference for peeping through keyholes at his wife's dalliances with Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister. One unsubstantiated story is that the car, which cost £2,800 — including its customised coachwork — was a peace offering from Lady Mountbatten after he discovered her habitual infidelities.

The bed may, of course, have been used purely for rest on long journeys. Douglas Fairbanks Jr once said of Mountbatten: "Dickie

loved to look at the menu, but rarely ate the main course." Mountbatten sold the car in 1946. It rotted on a farm until bought in 1967 by its present owner, Ron Duguid, a Lincolnshire farmer, for £140. Mr Duguid restored it, showed it at rallies and occasionally lent it for weddings. It still bears its original number plate LM 3698, representing its original owner's initials and his Mayfair telephone number.

The car contains several other peculiarities which are unlikely to be seen on any future model. The dashboard is unusually high, to com-

pensate for Mountbatten's considerable height. The front bumper is detachable, to save space when the car was loaded on ships. Strangest of all, the car's headlights swivel with the steering, supposedly enabling the driver to see round corners. It is the sort of gadget that might appear in an April Fool's day advertisement.

Charlie Palmer, of Classic Restorations at Alyth, Perthshire, who has brought the car back to mint condition, said: "I have never seen a car like this before, and certainly not one with a bed in the back. The bed still works, but

the headlights have been disconnected as they are deemed to be dangerous." Mountbatten was a hair-raising driver. In 1924 he drove another Rolls from Park Lane to Portsmouth Barracks in an hour and 32 minutes, long before the days of motorways or even of brakes on all four wheels. After 50 years' motoring he still enjoyed a full no-claims bonus on his insurance.

Estimates of the car's worth vary from £75,000 to £100,000. In 1985 Mr Duguid entered it in an auction at Sothebys but it failed to reach its £75,000 reserve price.

SAM JANUS **MARK WOMACK**

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سوان الراج

How MI5 mistook spinsters for spies

Records reveal that wartime intelligence suspected 100 Britons of aiding the enemy, reports Valerie Elliott

MORE than a 100 Britons were suspected as traitors during the Second World War, according to an intelligence dossier just released.

The file marked "British renegades" at the Public Record Office in Kew, west London, includes William Joyce, better known as Lord Haw-Haw, who was hanged for his Nazi propaganda broadcasts to Britain from Germany, and Norman Bailie-Stewart, the last traitor to be imprisoned at the Tower of London, who passed secrets to the Germans.

But mystery surrounds the activities and fates of many of those branded as traitors and sought by intelligence during

the war. The document, *Nominal Roll of Renegade British Subjects*, suggests that the extent of British collaboration with the Nazis was more widespread than had been realised.

The file reveals that MI5 were wrong about some people. A few at least were able to clear their names and were later declared "no risk to security". Even most of those on the list were said not to be "out-and-out collaborationists" but those about whom there was "some suspicion to think they have collaborated with the enemy".

Among these were celebrated English women, mostly spinsters, who settled in Tus-

cany and were devoted to Mussolini. Nicknamed the Scorpions because of their biting wit, their lives in northern Italy are the subject of a Franco Zeffirelli film, *Tea with Mussolini*, starring Judy Dench, Maggie Smith and Joan Plowright, to be released next year.

There were also well-bred young ladies such as Rosamond P. Shepherd, from Boars Hill, Oxford, who acted as a friend and chaperon to the daughters of Countess Dal Pozzo. Although Miss Shepherd is named as a renegade in the MI5 list, her own account of months on the run from the Germans and how she eventually worked for the

Allies as an interpreter provides an insight into how the security services sometimes got it wrong.

In June 1940 she wrote to the Royal Prefecture in Florence: "I am a fascist and also a great admirer of Italy and Italians... Now, in case of war between Italy and England, I don't know to whom I must turn to ask what would happen to an independent English person here in Italy?"

At first MI5 reported that she was "openly anti-British", but by April 1945 had marked her file: "She professes pro-Fascist sympathies but is harmless."

Her personal account, handwritten in blue ink, ex-

plains that ill-health prevented her from returning to Britain at the start of the war. She was interned in Cortona but in September 1942 was allowed to reside with the Dal Pozzo family at their country house in Treviso. The following year, to escape the Germans, she fled to northern Italy and then back to Cortona, where she was required to report daily to the police.

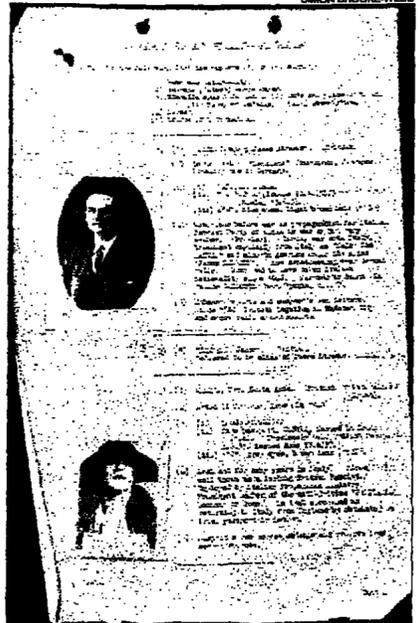
She wrote: "On June 12th, 1944, on going to sign the register, I was warned by the Maresciallo [Marshall] to take to the hills to save my life, as the Germans were rounding up all the internees, foreigners and Jews, shooting some, and taking the rest to

prison camps in Germany. From June 18 until July 3 [when the Allies arrived] I stayed hiding in the hills, being hunted by the Germans, sleeping in the woods and fields and narrowly escaping with my life."

MI5 lists of suspects were circulated to army bases in Europe. Top of one list was Major James Barnes, alias James Kennedy. MI5 noted he was "notorious before the war as a propagandist for the Italian Fascist Party, of whom he was an honorary member". He had broadcast regularly from Italy and America and may have taken Italian nationality in 1940. Although he had been living near Florence, MI5 believed he had moved to Germany with his Italian-born wife.

Another suspect was Edith Waring, born in London in 1897. An intelligence report read: "Resident many years in Italy. Since 1933, leading British fascist. Employed by Italian Propaganda Ministry."

The Public Record Office has been granted £2.6 million by the Heritage Lottery Fund to help to put on microfilm 33,000 boxes of First World War servicemen's records damaged by fire and water in 1940.



Suspected traitors: Major Barnes and Mrs Waring

...the Germans were rounding up all the internees, foreigners and Jews, shooting some, and taking the rest to prison camps in Germany.

From June 18th until July 3rd I stayed hiding in the hills being hunted by the Germans, sleeping in the woods and fields and narrowly escaping with my life.

With the Allies arrived on July 3rd in Cortona I was aided by the town Mayor to help me with some...

Finally - I have never at any time engaged in any kind of politics or any party whatsoever and I am surprised and perturbed that I as a British Subject, educated in England, should be subject to such annoyance when I know that I have never done anything to deserve it.

Rosamond P. Shepherd

Extracts from Rosamond Shepherd's diary protesting her loyalty. She had been working in Italy as a chaperon when war broke out

Royal soldier who had no stomach for active service

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE first Marquess of Cambridge, brother-in-law to George V, was known in his lifetime as a soldier-prince, but papers disclosed by the Public Record Office throw doubt on a glorious military career.

The former Prince Adolphus of Teck, who was a personal aide-de-camp to the King and a godson of Queen Victoria, appeared to spend

doctors and military medical staff subjected him to various examinations and he was considered unfit for service.

In February 1915 he went to the south of France to recuperate. His doctor then advised that he could take up a desk job and he became an assistant military secretary at the War Office. But he continued to suffer abdominal pains and mystify the medical boards.

In June 1916 he was made military secretary to the Commander-in-Chief at the General Army HQ in France, with the rank of brigadier-general. But within weeks an official report read: "Up to a fortnight ago he was able to perform his duties as Military Secretary, though never very well owing to frequently recurring attacks of pain."

An obituary in *The Times* told a different version: "His desire for more active service was gratified by his appointment as Military Secretary... It was indeed a common matter of remark that he preferred the hard work of the regiment to any of those less arduous staff appointments."

But by the autumn of 1916 he had taken so much sick leave that he was put on half-pay during further absences.

At 51, he retired and asked to commute his pension to a lump sum, writing: "I am in rather a fix as I looked to the £2,000 to help pay for a small place I have just bought. In fact I have had to borrow the money from the bank."

He was allowed to commute only a part of it. Sir Reginald Brade at the War Office, noted: "After all, the monarch would not allow him to starve and disgrace us by begging in the streets."

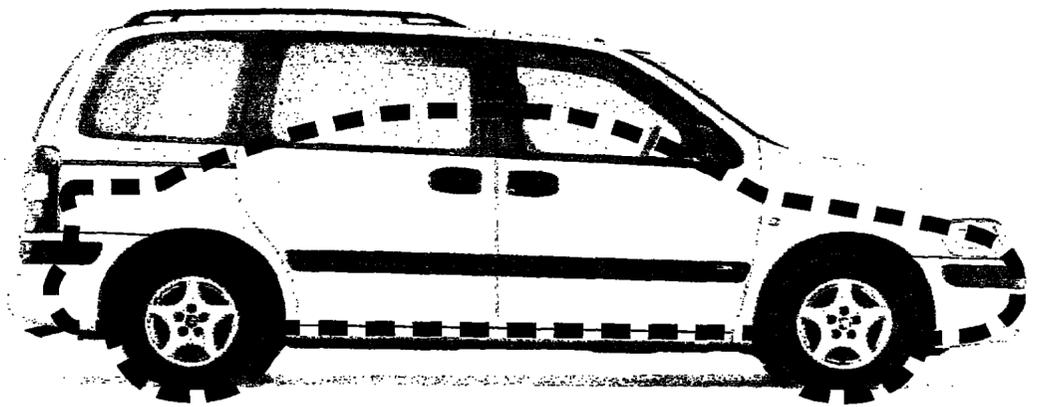


Lord Cambridge had frequent attacks of pain

the First World War facing a series of Army medical boards to request sick leave.

His persistent bouts of illness conflict with the eulogies written about him after his death, which suggested he had "devoted himself to the steady and efficient performance of his military duties".

His ill-health appeared to begin in 1914 while he was on active service in Flanders as a lieutenant-colonel with the 1st Life Guards. He "was seized with vomiting and pain and had to return home." For nearly two years his own



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New rural rail stations face inquiry after local protests

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

PIONEERING moves to build a string of rural railway stations to relieve traffic congestion on motorways and in town centres have been put on hold by John Prescott.

Train companies want to build "parkway" stations, some with parking for 1,500 cars, to cope with rising numbers of passengers commuting from country areas. The parkways would be built close to motorway junctions, possibly in green belt areas, to encourage motorists to use the train for long journeys.

But Mr Prescott, the Secretary of State for Transport, is worried about the environmental effects of the new wave of stations. He has called a public inquiry into one of the first plans, creating a new station close to a Warwickshire village.

Proposals for a station close to Hampton Magna, near Warwick, have been widely supported but have drawn fierce opposition from several hundred residents who fear that village life will be ruined

by a huge rise in local traffic. The plan has pitted neighbour against neighbour and Warwickshire County Council, which has proposed the scheme, against Warwick District Council.

The inquiry, to be held next month, is seen as a crucial test of the Government's commitment to expanding public transport, even in the face of opposition from the rural community. Further plans include

a new station in the Oxfordshire village of Aston Rowant, in the shadow of the Chiltern hills and close to the M40.

Another proposal, to build a parkway station on green belt land close to the M25 in Hertfordshire, is expected to be the most hotly contested scheme, and planners will be looking closely at the public inquiry decision before deciding whether to go ahead with the scheme. Other sites that

are being considered for parkway stations are outside Edinburgh, Doncaster, at junction 24 on the M1 in the East Midlands, and Marks Tey, near Colchester in Essex. A parkway station is also planned at Luton airport, close to the M1.

Mr Prescott is understood to be disturbed by suggestions from his environment officials that such plans, which could generate additional car traffic

in rural areas, will prompt a flurry of similar schemes in green belt areas. He believes that the issues should be aired at a public inquiry.

The Hampton Magna plan, which would include parking for 450 cars, is expected to be a test case and senior railway figures believe that Mr Prescott will use the scheme to draw up ground rules for future schemes.

Chiltern Railways is behind the plan, which follows 30 per cent increases in the number of passengers on its services from Birmingham to London. Alex Turner, Chiltern's marketing director, said: "This really is a huge benefit to the area and we simply want to get on with it."

Robert Butler, a parish councillor leading the campaign against the station, said: "There simply isn't the demand locally and they can only make it work by creating demand from other areas such as Redditch and Bromsgrove. It will create dreadful traffic problems on country roads."

COMPLAINTS CONTINUE TO RISE

The number of complaints from passengers about the services provided by the privatised rail operators is continuing to rise as their performance drops, according to figures published yesterday (Richard Ford writes).

Complaints to the key national passenger watchdog organisation rose by 32 per cent for the three months to June this year compared with the same period last year. The number of complaints

is now so high that the regional rail users' committees fear they will be unable to cope. "We are reaching the point where we are in serious danger of letting passengers down ourselves," David Bertram, chairman of the Central Rail Users' Consultative Committee, said.

The major criticism against the privatised rail firms was over the punctuality of the services, while the number of complaints about the accuracy of the telephone enquiry service rose by 152 per cent.

Punctuality worsened on 48 of the 64 routes run by the 25 train operating companies in the 12 months to the end of June this year and 25 routes failed to meet punctuality targets for the same period. Richard Branson's Virgin West Coast main line service was bottom of the punctuality table after running only 71.3 per cent of trains on time against a target of 90 per cent.



Joe Long with 18-month-old Holly Lang, rescued from her smoke-filled home

Boy, 11, saves toddler from burning house

By A CORRESPONDENT

A SCHOOLBOY was hailed as a hero yesterday for rescuing a baby girl from a burning house.

Joe Long, 11, calmly crawled along a plastic roof to climb through an upstairs window at a neighbour's house to rescue 18-month-old Holly Lang after her distressed mother had locked herself out of the smoke-filled house.

He searched each room before finding Holly downstairs sucking her thumb as she watched television. Joe reassured her before picking her up and walking out of the burning house. Firemen and paramedics praised his bravery.

Joe said: "The only thing on my mind was getting the baby out."

He heard Holly's mother, Claire, cry for help after she locked herself out of the house in Torquay, Devon, as her chip pan caught fire.

She tried to break a toughened glass window with a shovel but could not get into the house, which has security locks on the main doors.

Joe climbed over a wall and ran to get help after Claire told him what had happened. He knocked on a neighbour's door and told them to call the

fire brigade before running up the road to ask a garage boss, Pete Sherwood, to lift him onto the plastic roof so he could get in to the house through an open upstairs window.

Joe said: "I was aware that the plastic corrugated roof would not take my weight. So instead of standing on it I crawled along it to get to the window. There was quite a bit of smoke about. I wasn't scared for me even though I could have fallen through."

"I found the baby and introduced myself so that she would not be scared."

Joe said when he is older he would like to be a fireman or a policeman.

John Davis, a local councillor, said: "He is definitely a little hero. I think he should get a medal."

Claire, a mother of two, was yesterday safely back in her home with Holly who needed some oxygen after breathing in smoke.

Two years ago Joe came face-to-face with an intruder wearing a ski mask who snatched his mother's handbag from their house.

Joe screamed loudly and police were called. They arrested the burglar.



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THE TIMES

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2010/09/14

Rioters force Tirana leader to flee

The murder of an opposition leader has thrown Albania into turmoil once again, writes Tom Walker

CROWDS, angry at the assassination of an opposition leader, stormed Albania's main government building yesterday, setting it alight and forcing Fatos Nano, the Prime Minister, and his Cabinet to flee through a back exit.

Rioters seeking vengeance took to the streets of Tirana, the capital, after gunmen killed Azem Hajdari, a close political associate and friend of Sali Berisha, the former President. One protester was killed and four guards were wounded while defending Mr Nano's office, the police said.

The crackle of gunfire and explosions from burning government cars echoed through the streets of this unstable former Communist capital. Elsewhere, witnesses said, armed crowds of opposition supporters blocked the main road near Kavaja, about 18 miles southwest of Tirana.

Dr Berisha warned Mr Nano, his socialist rival, to resign within 24 hours or face a popular uprising against his Government. Whether the unrest develops into a revolution depends on how much support Dr Berisha can muster.

Tirana's central Martyrs' Boulevard and surrounding streets were largely deserted and calm yesterday afternoon, but Dr Berisha's loyalists were planning an all-night vigil for Mr Hajdari, to be followed by a funeral today. Dr Berisha said he hoped that at least 100,000 mourners would come. Contacted by telephone, he said: "For the good of the nation I ask him to resign. I

cannot guarantee security and if he does not step down, there will be dramatic events."

His voice choked as he referred to Mr Hajdari as "a symbol to everyone and an independent man".

Many of Dr Berisha's Democratic Party faithful were equally shocked by Mr Hajdari's bloody end on Saturday night, when he and one of his bodyguards were shot a few yards from party headquarters. "Kill, kill, kill Fatos Nano," they shouted in the streets yesterday.

Mr Nano's response — a \$100,000 reward for information leading to the capture of the killers — was not enough and his Cabinet meeting soon faced the wrath of the mob.

Cars were smashed and set alight, then the ground floor offices of the government building were ransacked and put to the torch. Amid the pandemonium of gunfire, exploding petrol tanks and dense black smoke, Mr Nano and his colleagues hurried away through a fire escape. Order was restored only after special police had fired volleys of shots into the air.

Dr Berisha blamed the assassination on Mr Nano. "It is known who did it. We have witnesses, we know everything about it." The killers, he said, were a police clique promoted to the top ranks of the security services by the Prime Minister.

There is little love lost between the two politicians, who have dominated Albanian politics since the death of



Cars burn yesterday outside Tirana's government building. People protesting against an opposition leader's murder also set the building alight

Enver Hoxha and the collapse of his Marxist-Leninist state a decade ago. Dr Berisha accuses Mr Nano of having maintained his links with the communist past; Mr Nano says he was unjustly jailed by Dr Berisha after his first socialist Government fell in 1991, with help from Mr Hajdari, who was then a student

leader. Eleven months ago Mr Hajdari was shot by a socialist deputy in the national parliament and shortly afterwards a motorcade in which he was travelling was hit by more than 150 bullets. He and Dr Berisha came from the same northern town, Tropoje, which is now a conduit for men and arms to the Kosovo Liberation

Army fighting for independence from Serbia. Dr Berisha denied that there was any link between the unrest spreading through Albania and the war in Kosovo. "This country needs a political solution," he said. "We no longer need Mr Nano, who is just a manipulator."

Diplomats watched events

with resignation. "People here are too tired for another revolution," one European Union official said. "When Berisha talks of a crowd of 30,000, there is usually a crowd of 3,000. I don't think he has much support." He said Albania's main problem was, as ever, the rule of well-armed gangs.

Karadzic clique faces poll defeat

BOSNIANS voted at the weekend in their second general election since the 1995 Dayton Peace Accord (Tom Walker writes).

Unlike previous polls, there was little trouble, and diplomats hoped the new mood of acceptance might diminish the hold of nationalists, especially in Republika Srpska, where the clique surrounding Radovan Karadzic faces oblivion.

The main problem was a computer failure that affected many polling stations. Rain added to the chaos, but at least 35 per cent of the 2.5 million electorate had voted by Saturday evening, which left observers confident of a high turnout. First results are expected by Wednesday.

By nightfall, Istic was empty.

Serbs force Albanian refugees back to a shattered land

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN ISTIC, KOSOVO

MORE than 50,000 ethnic Albanians abandoned their homes in Kosovo last week after a huge Serb offensive laid waste a swath of territory in the west of the province.

This latest internal exodus brings the number of those displaced to more than 400,000, nearly a quarter of Kosovo's population. Montenegro closed its borders to Kosovo on Saturday and yesterday deported about 3,000 refugees.

In June Mercy Corps International,

an independent American-based aid organisation working in Kosovo, listed 149,617 people as displaced. Three months after the US and its allies threatened President Milosevic of Yugoslavia with Nato airstrikes, this number has rocketed to 411,769, while the potential of foreign intervention has all but faded.

In the war's blackest week to date, Serb armoured columns rampaged through a triangle of rural land between the towns of Pec, Dakovica and Klinja destroying village after village.

Though there was little fighting,

the zone nevertheless presented a glimpse of the apocalypse. Dense smoke poured into the sky, minarets emerging like rare blooms. Columns of tanks, armoured personnel carriers and vehicle-mounted anti-aircraft guns swept out of the shattered ruins eastwards.

Behind them, scarcely a single Albanian remained. Dead dogs and livestock littered the fields; smashed cars and tractors lay overturned on the verges of empty roads; bandana-clad police looted and burnt whatever the shelling and shooting had left behind.

Kosovo Liberation Army resistance was isolated and ineffective, most of the separatist rebels preferring to abandon their weapons and run.

Early in the week, the Serbs had found their justification for this punitive excess just outside the village of Glodane. Here, in a muddy waste, lay the bodies of at least five murdered Serb civilians. By Sunday, the Serbs had found 19 more.

The people responsible for this crime may or may not have been among the terrified refugees who crowded into Istic, just beyond

Decane. Some 50,000 people from more than 40 villages — sick, hungry and many wounded — had by last Thursday clustered in and around the village.

On Saturday the authorities decided to disperse the refugees back into the zone of destruction from which they had escaped. Armoured personnel carriers corralled the jumble of tractors and carts loaded with refugees while police with sticks gave added encouragement to anyone who missed the message from the bullhorns.

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Prince Abdullah tour to consolidate role

Saudi prince to meet Blair

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE *de facto* ruler of Britain's most important Arab trading partner will begin two days of top-level talks in this country today. Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia, the half-brother of the ailing King Fahd, arrived in Britain yesterday at the start of a month-long tour of Europe, America and Asia, which will consolidate his position as the effective ruler of the world's largest oil producer.

Today he will have talks in Downing Street with Tony Blair that will focus on the threat to world economic stability, terrorism and the Middle East peace process and the important trade links between Britain and Saudi Arabia.

After his half-brother's stroke two years ago Prince Abdullah, 74, assumed the powers of regent, but King Fahd reclaimed the throne six months later. However, the King, who suffers from circulatory problems, increasingly has left the day-to-day government of Saudi Arabia to Prince Abdullah, who is First Deputy Prime Minister.

Kohl learns to love Bavarians

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

THE flagging fortunes of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, were yesterday given a boost from conservative Bavarian voters.

The ruling Christian Social Union (CSU) secured, on the basis of exit polls, a thumping absolute majority of 52 per cent in the regional elections. This will give heart to Herr Kohl's increasingly anxious supporters. The opposition Social Democrats fumbled and were lucky to keep their vote stable at around 30 per cent.

With two weeks to go before the general election, the Chancellor lags at least five percentage points behind the Social Democrats. He has been looking for the psychological turning point in the campaign, the moment when the nerve of the voters breaks and they decide they cannot stand the risk of life without Herr Kohl.

The Bavarian CSU is an ally not only of the Christian Democrats but also of Herr Kohl. The CSU does not think much of Wolfgang Schäuble, the Chancellor's crown prince. It fears anyone plotting a grand coalition with the Social Democrats because then the CSU could become superfluous. It fears most of all a crack-up of Christian Democracy, with Herr Kohl's Christian Democratic Union lurching leftwards and discarding its Bavarian sister. That is why Bavarians voted yesterday not only on local issues, the most important of which was the efficient management of the vigorous Bavarian laptop-and-Lederhosen economy, but also on the future of Germany.

Bavarians want Herr Kohl to stay until the terms of his succession have been decided. After yesterday's vote, three conservatives have become pivotal in the management of the post-Kohl era: Herr

Schäuble, Volker Rühe, the Defence Minister, and Edmund Stoiber, the Bavarian prime minister. They are the corners of the triangle of modern German conservatism: Herr Schäuble, a moderniser impatient with sluggish Rhineland capitalism; Herr Rühe, a north German Protestant pragmatist; and Herr Stoiber, a Euro-sceptical parochialist who speaks to the Catholic heartland.

Herr Kohl's position may well improve as a result of the Bavarian election. But Herr Stoiber's prospects of succeeding Herr Kohl as Chancellor, fulfilling Franz Joseph Strauss' frustrated dream of a Germany led from Bavaria, have also improved. Until Strauss's death, Herr Kohl

Greens urged to withdraw MEP

Bonn: Germany's Greens faced pressure yesterday to withdraw Daniel Cohn-Bendit, a former leftist radical, from his seat in the European Parliament. He has admitted that for years he channelled money to Hans-Joachim Klein, a left-wing terrorist suspect, who was arrested last week after 22 years on the run. (AP)

had to fend off the Bavarian challenge.

In an interview last week, Herr Kohl recalled what he said was the only time he broke the law. Herr Strauss had collected him from Munich airport and they were speeding down the autobahn when the vehicle ran out of petrol. Herr Strauss went off with a can in search of a petrol station. When he returned, he was on the other side of the autobahn. Herr Kohl ran illegally over the motorway to help the stout Bavarian over the crash barrier. The minor episode has a political point: the men were rivals, yet they helped and depended on each other.

Herr Kohl swept aside doubts about the Eurofighter, ensuring jobs in Bavarian industry. Despite Herr Stoiber's tactical scepticism about the euro, Bavaria, with companies such as BMW and Siemens, has most to gain from the new currency. So Herr Stoiber barely raises a squeak nowadays against the euro's introduction.

However, he does complain about Brussels interference in daily life. So does the pre-election Chancellor, Herr Stoiber and Herr Kohl want a European budget rebate. The German presidency of the European Union, which begins in January, will be steered by Munich.

In this sense Germany is already being run from Bavaria: Herr Kohl and Herr Stoiber, once at opposite ends of the European debate, now agree on almost everything. Herr Stoiber is a rare surviving specimen of that dying breed: a successful Christian Democratic leader with strong Christian values. And the Chancellor, in the final sprint to the general election, is learning to love the Bavarians.



A woman in traditional Bavarian dress casts her vote yesterday at Bayrischzell

'Treasure map' leads police to Italian fraudster's hidden bullion

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

LICIO GELLI, the convicted fraudster and political eminence grise arrested in the South of France last week after fleeing from Italy, had hidden more than 300lb of gold

ingots in giant terracotta flower pots at his villa before absconding, Italian police said yesterday.

The gold bars, worth about £1 million, were buried in pots on the terrace of the villa near Arezzo in Tuscany. Police had searched the property 35 times without finding

them, but French officers searching the Cannes apartment where Gelli had taken refuge found a "treasure map" showing their location.

Gelli, 79, was convicted of heading the illegal P2 masonic lodge, which in the postwar years operated as a parallel power. He escaped to Swit-

zerland after the collapse in 1981 of the debt-ridden Banco Ambrosiano, Italy's largest private bank, but was later extradited and sentenced to 12 years in jail for fraud, with a further three years for P2 membership. He vanished four months ago while on bail.

La Repubblica said the ingots may be stolen Yugoslav Treasury gold. Fugitive held: Police announced the arrest of Giuseppe Mannolini, 61, one of the most wanted 'Ndrangheta bosses. Mannolini, who had been on the run for 11 years, has been convicted of kidnapping.

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THE TIMES M...
Taleb
Mandela fail to allay firms' fears

سید علی حسینی



Side of the 70,000 Iranian Revolutionary Guards who remain at the border with Afghanistan. They are to be joined by a further 200,000 troops in the next few days

Taleban advance raises war fears

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

FEARS of a military confrontation between Iran and Afghanistan grew last night after Taleban militia reported capturing Bamian, one of the last strongholds of Tehran-backed position forces in Afghanistan. Iran which accused Taleban of war crimes, had earlier announced it was sending another 200,000 troops to its border with Afghanistan and declared its right to take "every appropriate action" to defend its territory.

but Brigadier-General Abdolali Pourshab, the commander of Iranian ground forces, said his troops would be ready to act against Taleban with "full power". Between 80,000 and 90,000 of the reinforcements had already taken up positions and the remainder were expected in the next few days, he said. They will join about 70,000 elite Revolutionary Guards, who were left at the border after recent exercises.

Tehran has also demanded the return of dozens more Iranian prisoners, but Taleban, which has so far refused to be intimidated by Tehran's muscle-flexing, insisted these would go home only as part of a prisoner exchange for hundreds of its fighters it said were being held in Iran.

Iran, a predominantly Shia Muslim country, has been alarmed by the rapid series of recent military victories by the Sunni Muslim Taleban. It has no desire to live alongside an Afghanistan controlled by an ideological enemy it sees as a growing threat to its security, prestige and strategic interests.

Publicly, the crisis has helped to unite the feuding hardline and moderate wings of the Iranian leadership, with both sides agreed on the need to oppose Taleban. Mr Khatami and his radical opponents have advocated a cautious approach, but also insisted on Iran's right to avenge the diplomats' deaths and to protect Afghanistan's beleaguered Shia minority.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Zimbabwe forced to reduce land seizure

Harare: The Zimbabwe Government, under pressure from Western countries, has agreed to slash its plans for a \$1.9 billion (£1.13 billion) land reform programme (Jan Raath writes). The move effectively repudiates President Mugabe's threats of a mass-seizure of white-owned farms.

Briton attacked in Turin

Rome: An English writer and translator is in a coma in a Turin hospital after being attacked in the street (Richard Owen writes). Malcolm Skey, 54, who came to Italy from West Coker near Yeovil in Somerset in 1971, was found early on Saturday lying on the ground in the Porta Palazzo area with his skull shattered. Police said he appeared to have been struck from behind with a blunt instrument, but there were no signs that he had been robbed.

Greeks visit Turkish Cyprus

Nicosia: More than 1,200 Greek Cypriots, some in wheelchairs, made a third emotional pilgrimage in 13 months to the remote Greek Orthodox Apostolos Andreas Monastery in the Turkish Cypriot section of the divided island. Turkish Cypriot authorities said 1,274 people passed a United Nations-controlled checkpoint in Nicosia, the divided capital, without incident. The trip was one of a series of reciprocal goodwill gestures encouraged by the UN to improve relations on the island. (Reuters)

New software 'erases porn'

Bangkok: Software developed by a Thai activist group and a private company will erase child pornography from the Internet, the Foreign Ministry here said. A spokesman for the ministry, which is encouraging local Internet providers and users to install the program, said it worked like a virus scanner and was developed by End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism and an unnamed German firm. (AP)

Mandela fail to allay firms' fears

Johannesburg: President Mandela did little at the weekend to reassure companies fearing the effects of the brain drain of white emigrants taking the "chicken run" to escape South Africa (Sam Jay writes). "Real South Africans are being sorted out," he said.

Serial murder trial starts 13 years late

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES
AN ALLEGED serial killer who went to school in North Yorkshire and has been linked to at least a dozen gruesome deaths in northern California goes on trial today after an extraordinary 13-year delay.

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John Bayley and his wife, Iris Murdoch, 79: "Her power of concentration has gone, she cannot form coherent sentences. She does not know that she has written 27 novels; that she is a Dame of the British Empire"

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Alzheimer's sufferers are not always gentle: I know that. But Iris remains her old self in many ways.

The power of concentration has gone, along with the ability to form coherent sentences, and to remember where she is, or has been. She does not know that she has written 27 remarkable novels, as well as her books on philosophy; received honorary doctorates from the major universities; become a Dame of the British Empire. If an admirer or friend asks her to sign a copy of one of her novels, she looks at it with pleasure and surprise before laboriously writing her name and, if she can, theirs. "For Georgina Smith. For Dear Reggie..." It takes her some time, but the letters are still formed with care, and resemble, in a surreal way, her old handwriting. She is always anxious to oblige. And the old gentleness remains.

Pondered such matters while making Iris her drink. Important to make a routine of this. Around 12 o'clock or a little before. The drink itself slightly dishonest: a little drop of white wine, a dash of angostura bitters, orangeade, a good deal of water.

Iris likes it, and it has a soothing effect, making her sit watching television for longer periods. Otherwise she is apt to get up and stand with her back to the television, fiddling incessantly with her small objects: trinkets, twigs and pebbles, bits of dirt, scraps of silver foil, even dead worms rescued from the pavement on our short walks. She also puts water - sometimes her drink - on the potted plants by the window, which are now wilting under the treatment. But she never does this with a real drink, an alcoholic one. Sensible girl, her old fondness for bars still stands her in good stead.

THE TELETOBBIES. They are part of the morning ritual, as I try to make it. I have to insist a bit, as Alzheimer's now seems to have grown inimical to routines. Perhaps we all know by instinct that an adopted routine preserves sanity.

The Teletubbies is one of the few things that we can really watch together, in the same spirit. "There are the rabbits!" I say quite excitedly.

One of the charms of this extraordinary programme is the virtual reality landscape supplied. An area of sunlit grass natural - dotted with artificial flowers beside which the

real rabbits hop about. The sky looks authentic as well, just the right sort of blue with small white clouds. The Teletubbies have their underground house, neatly roofed with grass. A periscope sticks out of it. A real baby's face appears in the sky, at which I make a face myself, but Iris always returns its beaming smile. Iris looks happy, even concentrated.

Something about Teletubbies reminds me of going to see the bluebells in Wytham Wood. Since living in Oxford and finding out about this amenity, we have been to see them every year. Coming on them if the sun is shining has something of the beautiful dubiousness of Teletubby land. Can they be real? Do they really exist? They live in a thick and distant part of the wood, under dark conifers that stretch away downhill, and as

cape? What am I to do? Has nothing replaced the play of her mind when she was writing, cogitating, living in her mind? I find myself devoutly hoping not.

WHEN IRIS'S mother was taken to the mental hospital we did not tell her where she was going. I had doped her but the drive seemed interminable. As the nurse took her away she looked back at us with a lost, unrepentant look.

The same look on Iris's face when I manage to leave her for an hour with a friend.

Like school. Being left there. Probably such moments would not be so painful now if they hadn't started all those years ago at school, inside one's own ego.

I knew where I was going when I was taken to school. But being left there felt the

and never does now when I did so in the past would soothe me by a peculiar sort of reassurance, implying that I was most lovable and close to her when I was big angry, silly or tiresome.

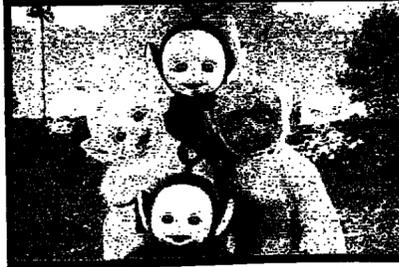
Now her face juncrumples into tears. I hasten comfort her; she always responds to comfort. We kiss and embrace much more than used to.

Often something that Iris says now, or a word she repeats, starts me, too, on some more or less train of association. I remember when her mother with early Alzheimer's - not diagnosed or labelled then - used to repeat a word in a toying way, as if it were a talisman or portent. If somebody said "journey" or "Baron Court", where she lived, it would go on repeating it at intervals, and the same if the words happened to be "sham" or "ham and cheese". Once a mind attends to this involuntary habit, it becomes aware that the word "learning" has been popping up at intervals in my mind, and so play with it.

When young, I was already formidably leery, but I'm sure it never shed. But does "learning" really some sort of overt display, like a bird's feathers, to show how important it still is should be? It would have been thought odd if Prime Minister Blair had proclaimed his new Government's policy to have been "learning, learning, learning" instead of "education, education, education". Despite its competence nature, learning is ideally sent in itself, and no government particularly wants to encourage that, or to pay for it.

Moving from state to stage. How many are there? How many will there be? Used to dread the moment of waking, because the situation seemed to strike her then full force, for a minute or two. Reassuring noises, so far possible, and then she would go back to sleep, and I would be beside her reading or tending. The sound of it seemed reassurance her. Iris's greed for sleep had something desperate about it, and yet she slept still sleeps, so easily and long in the morning that it is a great mutual comfort. Log beside me she is like an alete who has passed on the path to a back-up member of a relay. I couldn't do what she'd done, but I was doing something.

THE AGONY of the now. Iris loved travelling and craves



"The Teletubbies are part of the morning ritual"

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IRIS: A MEMOIR

thinking: 'I want to escape'

It now more compulsively than ever, have always detested the business of leaving home, and was so thankful in the old days to drive her to the station and wave her goodbye. Now I have a fever of travel angst: taxi tickets, train-tickets, Iris never worried about all that. She used to arrive at the station like a Russian peasant and wait for the first train to arrive.

The worst of both worlds. Although Iris is compulsively eager to be "going" — somewhere, anywhere — she is in as much of a flap in her own way as I am. At the station she keeps repeating, "Why didn't you tell me we were going?" I had told her many times. Now I tell her again sharply, and with her own degree of querulous repetition. People look round at us. I am fumbling with my wallet, checking the tickets. They are hard to separate, and after shuffling them wildly again and again I can still find only one return ticket. I rush to the ticket office, where a queue unwinds in serpentine fashion between rope barriers. My ticket man has gone off. The customer at the other guichet seems to want a round-the-world ticket, and to be in no hurry about getting it. Iris clutches me anxiously, urging us to run to a train that has just come in, the wrong train I hope. At last the ticket man is free. I produce the receipt and delinquent tickets. He can do nothing: it wasn't his sale. I turn away in despair. Why can't we just go home?

Iris has not understood the problem and keeps urging me towards the wrong train. At that moment a man comes up to us and holds out a ticket. It is the original ticket man himself, strangely jaded and unrecognisable now he's not behind the counter. He doesn't explain what happened but gives me a collusive smile and walks rapidly back to his place of work. On the train I keep counting the tickets. The elderly couple opposite look sympathetically at Iris. I am clearly the one who's become a problem. Exhausted and drenched in sweat, vague heart sensations, too. And the whole thing so trivial. Alzheimer's obviously has me in its grip, and the ticket man, too. As well as Iris, and probably everyone else. Does the carer involuntarily mimic the Alzheimer condition? I'm sure I do.

KIND FRIENDS up our street are giving a Sunday morning drinks party, offering a welcome distraction. I say nothing about it until 11. If I did, she would pale, demand why I hadn't told her sooner. She does not distinguish now between what she wants to do and what is happening.

"Are we going to London?" "No, just up the street. You'll know then when we get there. They're nice. You'll like it." I know Iris is true, but it produces a "muser grimace" as I now call it in my mind. Every evening we have the battle of the trousers. She wants to go to bed in them, and everything else she is wearing, too. My resistance is half-hearted, compared with the determination she shows on the issue. Sometimes I win, more or less



Every year Bayley and Murdoch went to see the bluebells in Wytham Wood, near Oxford. But now Iris has "a great fear of trees"

dragging them off. Iris gives up the struggle, but produces a frightful grimace, an expression wholly new and different from anything her face ever did in the past. It unnerves me, and is becoming more frequent in other situations. Not that I care about her trousers. Our habits have never been exactly hygienic, and yet distinguishing day from night seems vital to our saving routines. Twice in the day, at

ten in the morning and five in the evening, panic and emptiness descend, not because there is something we have to do but because there isn't. Routine has no suggestions to make. All I can do then is to promise the next thing soon. A drink. Lunch, or supper. Iris's fear of other people if I'm not there is so pitious that I cannot bring myself to arrange for carers to "keep her company", or to take her to the

age-therapy unit. All that will have to come. Meanwhile, I am ruthless about getting her ready for the party, confident that she will enjoy it when she gets there, as they used to tell us in childhood. She does. It is a nice party. I marvel, as I have often done before, at the way in which guests enjoy being guests. Standing opposite someone and keeping going, holding eye contact in the same practised precarious way that one holds glass and canapé. The extraordinary thing is that Iris can play her part just like the rest of us. Mustn't this be good therapy? I should like to think so, but exercise in that sense

When we get home I try to keep Iris interested in the party, saying how much people had liked seeing her. In retrospect the party does seem to have been a happy time. I am already looking back on it with nostalgia. But it is not remembered. Iris begins to say anxiously "When do we go?" I wonder how many times she asked the insurance man what it was that he did.

THEY SAY people with a strong sense of identity are the worst Alzheimer's patients. They cannot share with others what they still formulate inside themselves. Does Iris speak, inside herself, of what is happening? How can I know? What is left is the terrible expectancy. "When?" and "I want..." Is she still saying inside herself, like the blind man in Faulkner's novel, "When are they going to let me out?" Escape. The word hovers, though she never utters it. Home is the worst place. As if something should happen here for her which never does. Anxiety pushing behind at every second. Picking up things, as if to ward it off. Holding them in her hands like words. Wild wish to shout in her ear: "It's worse for me — much worse!" This after the television breaks down. It is I who miss it more obviously than Iris does, but in its absence she becomes increasingly restless. The recommended sedative seems not to help. When are they going to let me out?

I want to shout: 'It's worse for me — much worse!'

● Extracted from *Iris: A Memoir* of Iris Murdoch by John Bayley, published by Duckworth at £16.95. Times readers can buy a copy for £14.95 by calling The Times Bookshop on 0990 134459. Copyright John Bayley 1998

WAYWARD ON THE BUS

A happy stay with our friend Audi in her little house in the middle of Lanzarote. Getting there is an ordeal, the charter flight packed to the doors with holidaymakers. Return a fortnight later. I have a heavy cold and feel unnaturally tired, although journey could not have been easier. On the bus for Oxford. Sink back thankfully. Nearly home. The few passengers are asleep. But we have no sooner started than Iris is jumping up and down in agitation. Where are we going? Where is the bus taking us? She rushes to the front and looks out anxiously ahead. I manage

of general distraction and uneasy eddies along the calm of the bus darkness. I can see faces alert and fixed resentfully. As we near Oxford I try to show things she might recognise, but the agitation gets worse. Clumsy escape from the stares of the passengers. Open the door. Get inside the gate. The house feels deathly cold. I rush to the central heating switch. Then I come back and say in a cold, furious voice: "You behaved disgracefully. I felt ashamed of you." She looks surprised, but then reassured, as if recalling an old cue. Leaving me to work out my nastiness as

What will you do if I die? Or if I have to go to hospital?

if I were a child. "Well," she says. "I've lost my voice, my chest hurts when I cough. After a few more ugly words I tell her I've probably got pneumonia. Hasn't she noticed I'm ill? She looks uncomprehending again. My appeal for sympathy leaves her lost and bewildered.

to get her sitting down. I say: "We're going back to Oxford. Back home." "Not No home. Why travelling like this? He doesn't know." Before I can stop her she is speaking agitatedly to the driver. She has caught hold of a bag, which begins to spill things on the gangway. I pick them up, push her into a seat opposite a sleeping woman. I apologise to the driver, who remains ominously silent. When I get back the woman, a nice-looking person, is awake, and distraught, trying to regain the handbag and other possessions that had been on the seat beside her. I take them from Iris and put them back, apologising. Iris says, "So sorry," gives the woman a beautiful smile. I get Iris into a seat and give her a violent, surreptitious punch on the arm by which I am holding her. She grips the seat in front and stares ahead. A feeling

What will she do if I die? If I'm ill and have to go to hospital? What will she do then? Still exasperated by the bus business, I make these demands with increasing hostility and violence. I am furious to see my words are getting nowhere, and yet also relieved by this, so that I can continue to indulge my fury. She knows none of these things can or will happen. While I am still screaming she says, quite coherently: "Let's go. There now. Bed." We squeeze together up the stairs, huddle under the cold duvet and clutch each other into warmth. In the morning I feel a lot better.

TOMORROW

'I had a wish to rub my nose and lips along her bare arm.'
How John Bayley and Iris Murdoch fell in love

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Luxury on a shoestring

If you have designer tastes but a tight budget, look no further than the high street, says Style Editor Grace Bradberry

When Narciso Rodriguez covered Birkenstocks in cashmere for his last show, it was clear that luxury was taking on a new meaning in fashion. If these flat, functional Boston clogs were now the height of monied elegance, then the whole idea of *deluxe* was clearly being redefined.

Dresses of spun-gold thread and jewel-encrusted bodices are fine at the Oscars, but the new way to wear one's wealth is discreetly. Few will know if your cashmere sweater is 24-ply, or if your leather skirt is as soft as butter — but you will. Designers from Marc Jacobs to Nicole Farhi are wrapping their customers in clothes that are both practical and ultimately luxurious.

So what's a girl with designer tastes but a high street budget to do? Stay in the high street, where there are some more than passable imitations of the *luxe* look dominating the catwalks.

Cashmere, devoré, chenille, suede and leather are now common in mass-market stores, and the quality is getting better and better. Leathers and suedes have become softer, and it's no longer the case that Agnès b is the only acceptable source (though her leather jackets are still to die for).

As for cashmere, it's everywhere from M&S (this autumn's lilac fitted round-neck sweaters are star buys) to Benetton (look out for sage-green fitted V-necks), with Amanda Wakeley for Principles, Oasis, Jigsaw and even Richards getting in on the act.

More specifically, stores have paid close attention to particular designer styles. At Episode you can find soft suedes that certainly don't copy, but do echo, the Ralph Lauren look. Episode has also done chunky tie cardigans that grasp this season's "comfort blanket" aesthetic.

The Voyage look — jewel-coloured velvets and *haute hippie* cardies — has been ripped off by all and sundry. Some of the best examples of the velvet-trimmed cardigan appear at Patsy Seddon in soft shades of sage and claret.

Emulating the kind of unfussy fluidity of a Joseph or a Donna Karan takes a little more ingenuity. The basic elements are simple, elegant knits, fluid trousers and structured but understated jackets in leathers or suedes. Hobbs, which has always been good at producing reasonably priced luxury, is now coming back into its own. These fluid, stretch-silk trousers are a real find. Don't dismiss Warehouse for leathers — some are surprisingly good quality.

Other cunning buys this season include a mohair hooded top by Top Shop and a "cashmillon" cardigan by Dorothy Perkins (it's acrylic but feels like cashmere) used here to create the luxury "street" look of Marc Jacobs.

But perhaps the star buy is Next's super long, tie-belt coat, which looks as if it might have come from Max Mara.



Velvet bias-cut long dress, £130, by Principles (0990 233 343)

Photographer: RYAN SULLIVAN
Stylist: Deborah Brett
Hair and make-up: Dirk Neuhoff at Michael/Johr Management
Model: Kara Orr at Select



Grey silk stretch trousers, £84.99, by Hobbs, 84 King's Road, SW3 (0171-586 5550). Glitter slash-neck top, £40, by Wallis (0181-910 1333). Black leather jacket, £200, by Warehouse (0171-278 3491)



Grey pleated skirt, £175, The Scotch House. Grey stretch hooded top, £92, Top Shop (0171-291 2706). Pink cashmillon cardigan, £22, Dorothy Perkins (0171-291 2604)



Natural suede maxi-skirt, £259, and caramel ribbed tie cardigan, £119, both by Episode, 172 Regent Street W1 and branches nationwide (0171-589 4279). Cranberry spiderknit tank-top, £145, by The Scotch House (0171-581 2151)

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Out

A major study into the effects of the everyday chemicals in our lives

Anjana Ahuja

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Outing the gender benders

A major study is to investigate the effects of thousands of everyday chemicals on sexuality. Anjana Ahuja reports

Nobody expected to find freaks of nature in one of the most perfect wilderness areas on Earth. Yet a study of the polar bears that inhabit the Arctic islands of Edgeoya and Hopen turned up some disturbing findings recently. Four per cent of the animals in these icy Norwegian outposts were hermaphrodites. In other words, they had both male and female sex organs.

The figures were too high to be dismissed as chance — it would be like tossing a coin 20 times and getting a tail on each occasion. Scientists suspected that something in the environment was turning these graceful creatures into weird sexual hybrids. The secret lay in polar bear fat, where scientists found high levels of polychlorinated biphenyl chemicals (PCBs), which are used to clean Russian nuclear submarines and are banned in many countries. Because this compound can mimic hormones, it can disrupt normal sexual development.

A sinister trend that had previously been confined to fish, birds and reptiles had finally hit mammals.

The mountain of evidence against so-called "endocrine disruptors", nicknamed gender benders, which have also been implicated in declining human sperm counts, is about to prompt one of the biggest investigations undertaken so far into the chemicals that have become part of our daily lives. Next week, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington will publish plans to test at least 15,000 chemicals used in almost every walk of life. All the main chemicals found in pesticides, plastics and detergents will be scrutinised. They include such everyday items as food packaging and washing powders. The long list of pollutants that creep into drinking water will be included, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons and effluent from chemical plants. The enormous project will be financed jointly by the American Government and the chemical industry.

"Evidence has been trickling out over the past few years that certain chemicals are capable of disrupting hormones," says Gary Timm, senior technical adviser at the EPA's Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances. "It was compelling enough

for us to think that there is a real problem. But these studies tended to focus either on isolated chemicals, or just one class of compounds. This multimillion-dollar study is a huge undertaking because it will look at every chemical of importance in a systematic way. That's what makes it unique."

The only criterion for inclusion was that annual production of each candidate chemical in the United States must exceed 10,000lb. That weeded out 15,100 substances for investigation out of a possible 87,000. These, says Mr Timm, would be the same chemicals that other countries would be interested in, too. Several nations are already co-operating with the Endocrine Disruptor Screening and Testing Program. According to Mr Timm, the EPA is in contact with the Department of Environment here. The powerful Food and Drug Administration is also lending its weight to the investigation.

The project began to take root in 1996. In that year, two environmental laws were passed by Congress, one on food quality and one on the safety of drinking water. Both enshrined the responsibility of the EPA to come up with a comprehensive scheme to evaluate the real threat to human and animal health from pollutants in the environment. That year, however, also saw the publication of *Our Stolen Future*, by Theo Colborn, Diane Dumanoski and John Peterson Myers — a controversial book documenting a wealth of scientific evidence that certain man-made chemicals could confuse or sabotage the endocrine system, which produces hormones that regulate sexual development and reproduction. The authors suggested that these endocrine disruptors could have devastating effects at low levels.

Among the villains were pesticides such as DDT, phthalates, used in food packaging, and nonylphenol, used to strengthen PVC. For example, chemicals in food packaging are known to leach into the contents.

The book claimed that a host of substances previously thought to be harmless were implicated in infertility, deformities and cancers of the sex organs, as well as neurological and behavioural disorders in children.

The authors pointed out that the worst affected species were at the top of their food chain,



A study showed that four per cent of polar bears on the Arctic islands of Edgeoya and Hopen had male and female sex organs

such as polar bears, so the chemicals were accumulating in body fat. One worrying possibility was that they could be concentrated in a mother's milk and be passed on to children through breastfeeding.

An EPA advisory committee was swiftly pulled together from universities, environmental interest groups, the chemical industry and public health organisations. It is this committee that will announce the programme next week. The scientific centrepiece of the programme is a "really neat piece of technology", according to Mr Timm. It is a breast cancer cell that has been modified to include a gene from a firefly (cancer cells are harder than healthy ones). The cell is hooked up to an androgen (male hormone) receptor, an estrogen (female hormone) receptor and a thyroid receptor. Mr Timm explains: "If the cell is exposed to a chemical that interferes with hormones, it will light up. You can use a photometer to record the light levels. We are sure the estrogen and androgen receptors will work, but we aren't sure about the thyroid one. That hasn't been done before."

If the cell flashes like a lightbulb, it will show that a chemical can make mischief at the cellular level. However, a light signal in a single cell does not necessarily mean that a substance will affect the animal's body as a whole. That makes it essential for chemicals to be investigated using more subtle means.

For this, scientists plan to use female rats just about to enter puberty. They will be exposed to the chemicals and their development will be monitored for 20 days. To avoid any effects being species-specific, fish will be tested in this way, too. This task is estimated to take two years.

Chemicals earmarked for further scrutiny will undergo a second tier of testing. Male and female rats will be exposed to each chemical and allowed to breed. Their offspring will then be bred. This will reveal the impact on fertility. Similar breeding studies will be conducted on birds, fish, amphibians and invertebrates. Results from the second tier are not expected until 2003.

"The risks are judged to be sufficient, laws banning certain chemicals could be in place by 2005. How will the industry react? Well, industry has bought into this, which made us pleasantly surprised," says Mr Timm.

"Their representatives were happy to be involved in this study, and are even funding some of it. They have made consensus recommendations and are willing to implement the findings."

"For this to work, they need to be co-operative partners. Hopefully the goodwill will continue, but we will have to wait and see."

Industry has bought into this research'

Picture of hope after a stroke

A Pfizer's laboratories in Sandwich, where Viagra was discovered, neuroscientist Dr Ross Kinlock is using nature photography techniques to unravel processes in the brain after a stroke. Using time-lapse photography to follow a culture of brain cells over a day or so, he can see, speeded up, a mass of neurons switching off as damage spreads.

It demonstrates the new thinking about strokes. It was thought that when blood supply to the brain is cut off, the damage was immediate and unavoidable. But a

more complex picture is emerging. The insult to the brain does do damage, starving brain cells which die through necrosis, the process in which cell membranes are disrupted and spill their contents. But the damage goes on for hours, in a process called apoptosis, or cell suicide. The normal role of apoptosis is to shape the body's organs. In a stroke, there is evidence that the initial damage spreads more widely through the brain by apoptosis, for reasons not fully understood. If this process could be stopped, many stroke victims would have better prospects of reduced damage. Disability might



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

be cut hugely. Dr Kinlock's experiments allow him to add to the cell culture different drug candidates to see if any inhibit the process. He claims to have found some that do. Other groups are working in the same direction. Dr Nancy Rothwell and colleagues at Manchester University have shown, working with rats, that a signalling molecule in the immune system called interleukin-1beta. When her team blocked the action of this molecule with a protein, it reduced brain damage in rats by 50 per cent.

Several American teams have worked on inhibiting the action of enzymes called caspases, which appear to orchestrate apoptosis. A Harvard Medical School team reported that strokes in mice could be made less damaging — 40-50 per cent — if they were treated with caspase inhibitors.

Caspase inhibitors may be candidates for stroke drugs. And their use could go further. Newborn babies with poor blood flow can suffer brain damage, which may be the result of apoptosis. Dr David Holtzman, of Washington University, gave caspase inhibitors to newborn rats and found they inhibited apoptosis.

Hay-reared cows are safer

CATTLE fed on grain are more likely to transmit the food poisoning bacterium *E coli* O157, which caused a big outbreak in Scotland in 1996. Scientists at Cornell University have shown that the grain-based diets promote the growth of *E coli*, and increase the proportion of the harmful variety. Cattle that are fed on hay do not show the same effect.

Reporting in *Science*, Dr Francisco Diez-Gonzalez and his colleagues say that cattle do not have enough of

an enzyme which digests starch to process the grain-based diet fully. It means the starch gets through the digestive system to the colon, where it ferments. This acidifies the colon, where *E coli* is found. And when bacteria grows under these acidic conditions, it develops extreme acid resistance necessary to survive the stomach acids in humans, which are supposed to protect against food-borne pathogens.

The team found switching cows to a hay-based diet before they are slaughtered means that the acid-resistant bacteria is reduced.

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at the Coliseum

THE TIMES ARTS

POP
Aqua go for
a big splash
in Copenhagen



Verdian tragedy for our time

This extraordinary show came at the end of an equally extraordinary week. While ill-matched forces conspired to destroy the Royal Opera, English National Opera came up with a gripping Verdi staging that clearly demonstrates what the art form is all about, what it can do to an audience, and all in terms of today, here and now. That ENO should have such a success with a big "international" piece muddies the waters in an interesting fashion.

Tom Phillips's permanent set shows a military encampment, closely based on Fama-gusta and on the fault line between Christian and Muslim worlds. This pale-brown Otello inveighing against "the swollen pride of Islam" sets up

OPERA
Otello
Coliseum

vibrations that are relevant both historically and from a contemporary point of view. It is all meticulously detailed: radar screens, satellite dishes, barbed wire, and some nasty nuclear-looking things being gingerly lowered into holes. It is a minutely observed public setting for a private tragedy that gradually, inevitably and painfully becomes public. Phillips's new translation, in plain, singable contemporary English finalised in co-operation with the singers and carefully enunciated, works very well indeed.

The director David Freeman's choreography of the opening scenes is equally detailed and authentic. The tension between commissioned (Cassio) and non-commissioned (Iago) officers is perfectly caught, and the drinking scene (beer chasing ouzo) and ensuing riot (broken bottles and knives) are terrifying. The eruption of "suits" into this military world with the arrival of the Venetian envoys, the moment when the private becomes so painfully public, is faultlessly handled.

Some may object to Freeman's use of omnipresent extras, and I think it might be better to leave Iago in sole command of the stage for his "Credo". But the chair-duty squad interrupting the Otello-Desde-



Triumphant trio: (centre, left to right) Mark Le Brocq (Cassio), Susan Bullock (Desdemona) and David Rendall (Otello) in David Freeman's gripping new production for ENO

mona duet in the third act causing them to return to "operatic" formality was extremely telling, and the elaborate colour-ceremonies in the big ensemble underlined the way a public-private world was collapsing into chaos. One nagging reservation: milk-and-water passive heroines are obviously "out" today, but wasn't Susan Bullock's bright, capable, thoroughly modern Desdemona too clever to keep nagging on about Cassio? Wouldn't she have sorted out that stupid handkerchief business in two minutes?

But Bullock sang wonderfully, as did the whole cast, aided by Paul Daniel's brilliant conducting: all the big moments made their mark, but he always listens to singers,

breathes with them, gives them room to shape the lines as expressively as possible. David Rendall has done nothing better than this, his first Otello: the trumpet top is there when needed, but so is a steady stream of honeyed tone projected with Italianate lyricism. His portrayal of a decent man brought low was simple, heartfelt and extremely moving.

Robert Hayward's crew-cut, bespectacled Iago, behaving with perfect military correctness and fielding an absolutely lethal smile, was relaxed, confident and quite revolting. Supporting cast, orchestra and chorus were on top form. A complete knock-out.

RODNEY MILNES

PROMS: Flag-waving at the Last Night; plus Beethoven's great Mass setting

Little, it seems, is ever going to change at the Last Night of the Proms. So there is no point in worrying about the hopefully good-natured jingoism of those who believe that, once a year at least, Britannia still Rules the Waves. And it's best not to worry about the grown men clutching teddy bears, or those who blow bubbles and throw beach balls in the concert hall. Yet it is no longer fair to blame the Proms for that. The Proms: more and more foreigners are coming to sample this quaint British custom, and Saturday's event drew German tourists by the coach-load. Ah, the global village.

But then, the 1998 Last Night did have an international flavour. Not surprisingly, both the soloists, the American baritone Thomas Hampson and the French pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet, were able to show the British a thing or two about partying in style. Thibaudet, one of the naggiest dressers in the business, entered into the spirit of things by sporting a crimson jacket just like those of the Albert Hall ushers. Accompanied by

Global village parties in style

the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Davis, he gave a dazzlingly crisp account of Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* that was full of poetry too.

Even more enjoyable were



Conductor Andrew Davis: spoke of music's importance

the baritone's contributions. This was Tom Hampson in Ham Thompson mode as he hammed it up very amusingly to an appreciative audience in arias by Mozart and Rossini, but Verdi's *Di Provenza*, magnificently sung, was full of serious feeling. He celebrated Gerstwin's 100th birthday this month with real style, and donned an Anglo-American stars-and-crosses waistcoat for *Rule Britannia*.

Just as television has its "God slot" so the Last Night has its "New Music slot", which gives the flag-wavers a chance to rest. Hugh Wood's *Variations for Orchestra*, a typically incisive work based on a drooping lyrical theme, received its successful European premiere, and Thomas Adès's virtuosic showpiece *These Premises Are Alarmed*, a complex web of sound that delights and fascinates the

ear, was heard in London for the first time.

Otherwise the programme was mostly a mix of the usual Victoriana and Edwardiana, with the BBC Symphony Chorus on excellent form and the orchestra playing splendidly despite provocation from the audience. In a new departure: there was a short relay from the Proms in the Park, with Tasmin Little playing *Paganiniana*. Andrew Davis steered clear of Radio 3 matters in his speech, but he did fly the flag for music education and music's importance to the future of the human race.

JOHN ALLISON

AS THE days draw in, so does the focus of London's concert life, and nowhere with keener anticipation than at the Wigmore Hall. For with the opening of the Wigmore on Thursday came the start of a mouth-watering Song Recital Series. The hall often begins with a youthful flavour. But this time it drew out its finest vintage: Swiss soprano Edith Mathis. Poise and consummate artistry apart, there are times when Mathis can look and sound nearer 16 than 60. Her trim, spritely stage presence, bright eyes and yet brighter vocal focus can recall her youthful Despinna even bit as much as her mature Countess. Rarely has there been a voice so well-nurtured and well-preserved — though preservation seems an inappropriate image

HILARY FINCH

RECITAL

for a vocal energy so fresh.

Beginning with Beethoven, Mathis and her ever-sentient accompanist, Graham Johnson moved artfully from the short phrases — and intimate questioning of *Andenken* (*Remembrance*) to the more involving demands of Mignon's *Kennt du das Land* and the secrets of *Das Geheimnis*.

Voice, ear and spirit were then tuned for the intricacies of Hugo Wolf's ardent settings of poems by Eduard Mörike. Here both Mathis and Johnson found the innermost intensity of *Denken, O Seele* by resisting any over-dramatisation of its dark questions. And after Mathis's soprano had fearlessly weathered the tempests of *Bagdad*, it judged to a nicely the drollery and pathos which coexist in Wolf's response to Mörike's wedding tableau, *Bei einer Trauung*.

Youthful ardour springs out of Schumann's *Mythen* collection, too, and Mathis warmed to it, inhabiting the ecstatic litany of *Widmung* and the lunar beauty of *Die Lotusblume* with eagerness. Then into the shadows of Schumann's triptych, *Das arme Peter*. Mathis and Johnson made of it a bitter-sweet musical-box drama whose tone of ironic distanced pain Mathis caught entirely.

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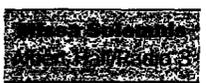


Balm to a troubled soul

NOT everyone was crouching by a computer on Friday night waiting for the US Congress to talk dirty. The Albert Hall, for instance, was packed solid for a 90-minute show that was as far removed from steeze as it is possible to get in this imperfect world.

Under normal circumstances one might have found Nikolaus Harnoncourt's interpretation of Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* a little lacking in muscle. But, in the context of the sordid news saturating the media this weekend, his sublimely unworldly, hypnotically calm reading was like balm to the troubled soul. This was no heaven-storming belter of a performance. It crept into existence gently; stealed upon the ears; subdued the brassy outbursts of Gloria and Sanctus into glowing refinement; and skipped lightly and joyously through passages that usually pound the senses.

In short, Harnoncourt's reading was poles apart from



the magnificent Bernard Haitink account that opened the Proms last year. Yet in its own way it also fulfilled Beethoven's famous inscription on this most mysterious of Mass settings: that it should go "from the heart to the heart". The heart has no single lock and key; and neither does great music. Harnoncourt, the Austrian period-instrument pioneer who has revolutionised our view of so many choral masterpieces, seemed to be suggesting here that the Beethoven who penned *Missa Solemnis* had long ago detached himself, spiritually at least, from worldly turmoil. Even the celebrated interruption from militaristic trumpets and drums in the Agnus Dei came across as a horror recollected in tranquillity.

With less good forces at his disposal his interpretation might have fallen embarrassingly flat. But the Chamber Orchestra of Europe is so responsive an instrument, so delicate of nuance, so virtuosic in articulation, that every bar seduced the ear. I have never heard the Crucifixus sound so hollow and strange, or the Sanctus so redolent of ancient monastic modes; or the Benedictus (with Marieke Blankensijn the superb violin soloist) so velvety and consoling.

To listeners used to the bright, upfront attack of British choirs the Arnold Schoenberg Choir from Vienna offered a startlingly different approach, not least in its Germanic pronunciation of Latin. But it gelled beautifully with this orchestra. And four excellent vocal soloists (Ruth Ziesak, Bernarda Fink, Herbert Lippert, Neal Davies) complemented each other gracefully.

RICHARD MORRISON

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Handwritten text in a box at the top of the page.

POP: Aqua and the Spice Girls go into battle for the hearts and minds of the world's pre-teens

Girls just wanna have fun

Standing on a huge, steeply raked stage in the middle of Copenhagen's famously beautiful Tivoli Gardens, the singer Lene Nystrom has a question to pose. "Vil I se min numse?" she asks the 70,000-strong crowd...

Aqua Copenhagen



A colourful and energetic display of 1990s pop: Aqua's singer Lene Nystrom and her onstage sparring partner René Dif

From fey to feisty

Two years ago Sinéad Lohan played the Jazz Café. Back then she was a wistful Irish folkie, whispering her way through a set of beguiling acoustic-based songs...

Sinéad Lohan Jazz Café, NW1

makes Lohan's new album special. Lohan herself was a revelation. Gone, it seemed, was the bashful, almost fragile Irish girl of yore...

PAUL SEXTON WILLIAMSON

This week in THE TIMES



At the Gielgud the fragrant Felicity Kendal stars in Alarms and Excursions OPENS: Tonight REVIEW: Wednesday



Simply Red, alias Mick Hucknall, plays the first of seven gigs at the Lyceum OPENS: Wednesday REVIEW: Friday



More car chases and shoot-outs with Mel Gibson in Lethal Weapon 4 RELEASED: Friday REVIEW: Thursday



Valery Gergiev conducts the LPO in a programme dedicated to Georg Solti CONCERT: Sunday REVIEW: Next week

PLS: Turandot from the Latvian National Opera at the Albert Hall, Saturday

Bill Clinton was not the only one having difficulty getting his mind on the day job last week. Such has been the preoccupation of the showbiz busybodies with the really important issues in Spice-world...

Don Valley Stadium soon saw that the loss of Geri Halliwell has been surmused with little difficulty, but this evening raised unavoidable questions about their ability to scale up from arena tour to artists whose presence can truly fill out a stadium...

Cooking without Ginger

64 cities across Europe and America tell a proud tale, but here the stickiness of the stagecraft did not conceal a strangely flat performance. The screams of their chief constituents, young girls of under ten, were

answered by the opening IfU Can't Dance, which showed off the strangled LA-via-Leeds accent of the Yorkshire Rapper, Mel B. The song struggled to cut through the worst audio balance I have ever heard at an outdoor concert...

answered by the opening IfU Can't Dance, which showed off the strangled LA-via-Leeds accent of the Yorkshire Rapper, Mel B. The song struggled to cut through the worst audio balance I have ever heard at an outdoor concert...

A large grid of theatre listings under the heading 'THEATRES'. Each listing includes the name of the production, the venue, and contact information. Listings include 'The Inspector Calls', 'The Woman in Black', 'The Real Inspector Hound', and many others.

Save us from the scaffold

Derwent May proposes an architectural revelation

A couple of years ago I went to the charming little Italian town of Crenoma for the first time.

Most of those that have come over the other side are looking far better than we have ever seen them before.

We arrived in the dark and rain and could not make out very much. But, first thing next morning, with the sun shining in, I put my head out of the window.

There, at the scaffolding is concealed from view, but the effect is no better for that.

Those later-summer travellers who are looking for beautiful buildings, rather than beautiful beaches, are always having experiences like this.

It would need to be planned a long way ahead. Many buildings are in absolutely vital need of repair, and their owners would need plenty of notice if they had to give up all prospect of doing anything for a whole year.

Let the EYES have it for all our buried treasures

There, at the scaffolding is concealed from view, but the effect is no better for that. A gigantic brown box, full of unseen planks and workmen,

In fact, it would be an ideal opportunity for the EU to show what it could do. Probably the Year would have to be designated at least ten years in advance.

Further afield in Venice, there has been constant disappointment for the visitors. The great brown box has been crawling all over San Marco and the Ducal Palace.

But I think that my Year is a vision that will appeal to everyone who loves travelling and soaking in the European architectural heritage.

In London, we have never seen the Houses of Parliament whole for a long time. Many foreign tourists went away with a very funny idea of Big Ben.

However, a body such as the EU that has created so many nightmares for others must expect to have a few nightmares itself.

Clinton could have survived the sex — but his big lie to the people has shattered his presidency

Kenneth Starr is a lawyer, not a politician, let alone a historian. His report is a rifle shot, dealing with one incident, and with a small group of impeachable crimes.

Humpty Dumpty in the White House

therefore on oath. His lies about Miss Flowers were not on oath.

Why, then, did Starr not concentrate on money? The reason is simple. The Clinton machine, in Arkansas and in Washington, was systematically organised to deal with scandals in a way that the Nixon White House was not.

and Kenneth Starr has proved them. Will Clinton survive? Possibly, but not as an effective President.

The Clinton presidency has been exposed to multiple scandals since the 1992 Democratic primaries, which he won despite them.

There is a division in American opinion which is mirrored in Britain. There are many men who belong to Bill Clinton's generation and identify with him, even if their own lives have been less louche than his.

There are many black people who see him as a sympathetic President. These people do not want to believe the evidence; they want to explain it away.

William Rees-Mogg

The second node is the financing of his Arkansas governorship, through Whitewater, through the \$700 million Arkansas Development Finance Authority, through his financial relations with Tyson Foods, through Hillary's commodity deal, and so on.

Even in the sex there was a system to protect Bill Clinton. The women, including Monica Lewinsky, were coached in denial, and were offered jobs or threatened in order to secure their silence.

It would be the same in Britain, though it would have happened more quickly. Tony Blair has been supportive of his friend Bill Clinton, well beyond the requirements of diplomacy.

Kenneth Starr's report would have been better understood by the public if he had made more use of this evidence of a pattern.

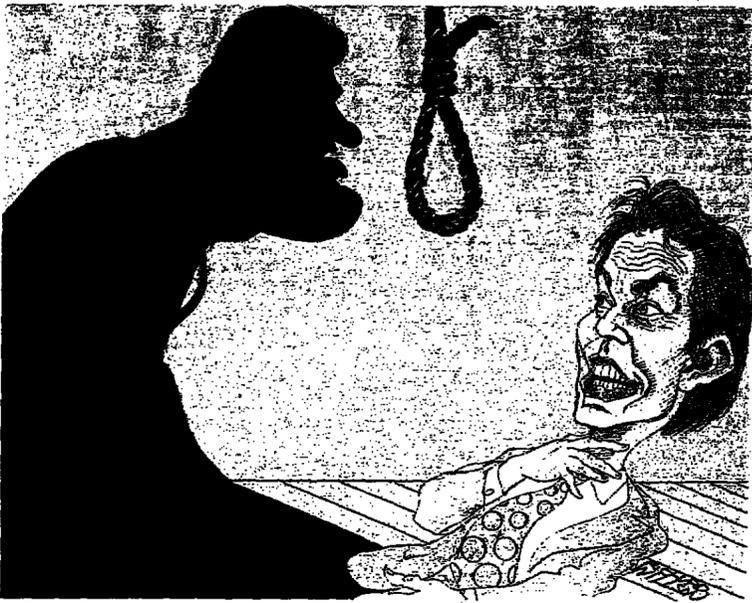
There are many women who are indulgent towards his sexual escapades. There are many black people who see him as a sympathetic President.

There are many men who belong to Bill Clinton's generation and identify with him, even if their own lives have been less louche than his.

With a friend like Bill ...

The Clinton scandal has implications for Blair, says Peter Riddell

Tony Blair will not distance himself publicly from Bill Clinton as long as he remains President. Nor should he.



Mr Blair talks of Mr Clinton not just as a colleague, but also a friend, and made a point of speaking to him on Friday.

Mr Blair is, of course, in a wholly different political position. What he proposes is enacted, given his vast and generally loyal Commons majority.

Anyone wanting to be taken seriously as a Blairite has offered their definition of the Third Way, usually an ex-post defence of what they are already doing.

Mr Blair also has to come to terms with a Centre-Left revival in much of the rest of Europe. He is personally on good terms with Lionel Jospin in Paris, and is keen to develop the relationship.

liberalism of the 1980s. Professor Anthony Giddens, of the London School of Economics, and a regular attendee at the Downing Street seminars, offers a good guide in his book *The Third Way*, published this weekend.

That debate has been given a further twist, not just by the troubles of Clintonism but also by the latest upheavals in global markets.

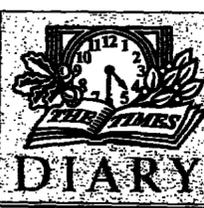
Mr Blair also has to come to terms with a Centre-Left revival in much of the rest of Europe. He is personally on good terms with Lionel Jospin in Paris, and is keen to develop the relationship.

Time out

LORD BROCKET has taken me aside to talk for the first time about his doleful sojourn in the clink after his scam to defraud an insurance company.

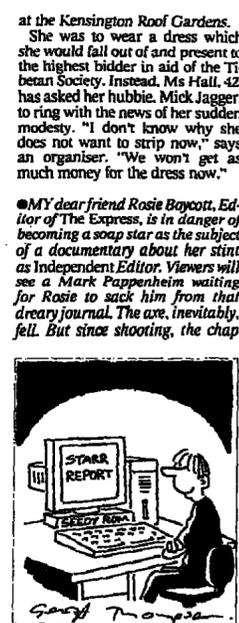
"I had to hide the disks in a way that blended in with the brickwork outside my cell because you were not allowed to store data," he says. This was not the only hazard.

MO MOWLAM can take it no more. The Northern Ireland Secretary has begged Alan McGee, the Labour-friendly Oasis boss, to cease bombarding Stormont Castle with second-rate rock CDs from his Creation record label.

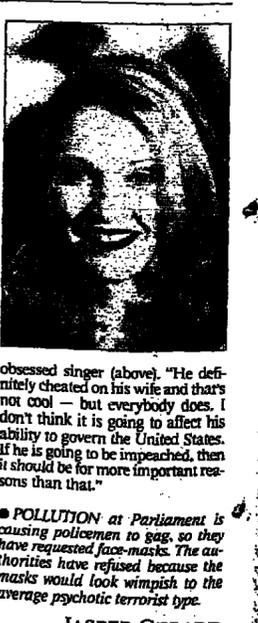


JOHN SPELLAR, the sacred-cow slaughtering Labour minister, is displaying the kind of reformist attitude towards the vulnerable that Margaret Thatcher would applaud.

Jerry bilked PITY the Dalai Lama. Dreaming of Tibet every night must lead to a rather gloomy existence.



high Jenks IT PROMISES to be a "most agreeable" lunch. Lord Jenkins of Hillhead is to sit at daret-pouring distance from Hywel Williams.



obsessed singer (above). "He definitely cheated on his wife and that's not cool — but everybody does. I don't think it is going to affect his ability to govern the United States."

WORST

NOTHING

CONIETT

Marriages

Lord Coleraine and Mrs M.R. Smyth
The marriage took place quietly on Saturday at St Peter's, Hunton...



This Chinese flagon dating from 206BC is filled with about two glasses of the original rice wine. The lid on the gilt bronze vessel had jammed shut so tightly that air could not penetrate for more than 2,000 years...

Wine survives 2,000 years

inside. The vessel was buried in a tomb in China until, it is believed, very recently. But Mr Goedhuis has no intention of opening his example...

have the wine inside the vessel. 'It's such a very unusual thing to have discovered. He will be offering it for about \$65,000 at the Paris Biennale...

COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
September 12: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Captain Roderick Stirling...

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will undertake engagements in London and East Sussex and as President, will attend the Prince's Trust gala dinner at Horseshoe Place Hotel...

Birthdays today

Miss Sandra Blow, painter, 73; Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, CH, 82; Professor J.F. Coates, FRSE, electrical engineer, 91; Sir James Cobban, former Headmaster...

Nature notes

UNCOMMON visitors are migrating southward - or just drifting - throughout the British Isles. Among them are spoonbills, which are fluffy white herons with beaks like spatulas...

Red-necked phalarope

At field edges there are still blossoming plants of mallow and white campion. Fat hen, or white goosefoot, with its mealy white flowers is flourishing in waste land...

School announcements

Cambridge Tutors College. Term begins today at Cambridge Tutors College with 210 students on roll, 82 of whom have joined on line...

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.J. Mitchell and Mrs G. Philbin. The engagement is announced between Julian, younger son of Mr and Mrs Charles Mitchell...

Thanksgiving service

Sir David Hunt. A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir David Hunt, CMG, OBE will be held in St Martin's Church, Westminster...

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Baron Alexander von Humboldt, explorer, Berlin, 1769; Theodor Storm, writer, Schleswig, 1817; Sir Peter Scott, naturalist and artist, London, 1909...

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DEATHS
BURGE - Anne of Shiplake, beloved mother of Sherwood, died 11th September aged 85.

FELLOWS - Ida Edith (Beryl) on 9th September 1998. Sister of Selina, dear friend of Biddy, beloved sister of Joyce...

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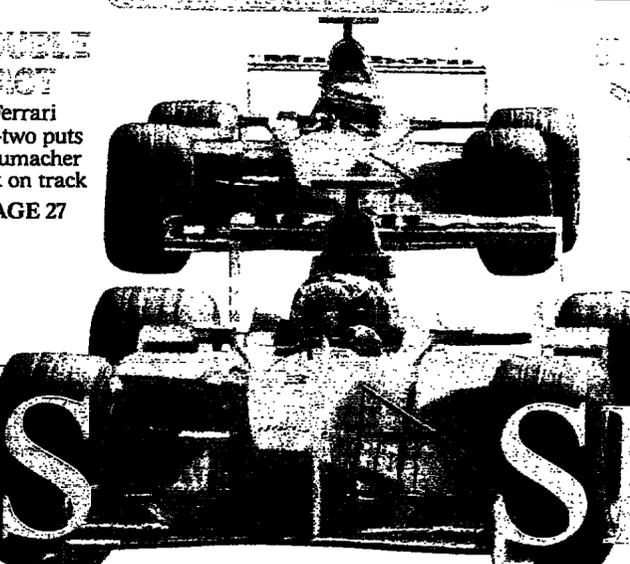
FARESAVERS
MILAN to 159 GREECE to 119
MADRID to 119 PARIS to 119
LONDON to 119 NEW YORK to 119

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: 'سكنا من الامل' (We live from hope)

Davenport comes of age at US Open
PAGE 28



DOUBLE ACT
Ferrari one-two puts Schumacher back on track
PAGE 27



Dickie Bird on why he called time
PAGE 37



MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14 1998

TWO GOALS BY COLOMBIAN STRIKER LIFTS ROBSON'S SPIRITS



Down and out Ferdinand, the Tottenham striker, is foiled once more by Schwarzer, the Middlesbrough goalkeeper, on another day of anguish and frustration for the home side at White Hart Lane yesterday. Photograph: Gill Allen

Fumbling Tottenham offer little resistance

THE whisper swirled around White Hart Lane yesterday that Glenn Hoddle had arrived, looking perhaps for an escape route from the siege that has forced him to man the barricades at Lancaster Gate, but if he was here, the England coach had long since slunk away by the final whistle. Even opprobrium is better than the apathy that is spreading contagiously from pitch to terraces and back again at Tottenham Hotspur.

The Tottenham fans could barely summon the energy to jeer their team yesterday, so drained were they by a performance of a sterility that was barely imaginable. You will hear more laughter in a morgue.

This was a joyless occasion for anyone but the travelling supporters, and the smile had certainly been wiped off the face of David Pleat whose honeymoon period as caretaker manager lasted precisely one game. Like Gerry Francis and Christian Gross before him, Pleat is discovering that there is a deep-rooted malaise in the home dressing-room that will not be solved merely by a bit of tactical tinkering.

It will be a brave manager indeed who accepts this vacancy, and even a man of Hoddle's unparalleled self-belief will wonder if it is a task beyond him.

Glenn Roeder, one of his Hoddle's assistants, was at the game but surely it was not to watch Paul Gascoigne. Hoddle might be without four senior midfield players for next

month's European championship qualifier against Bulgaria, but there seems as much chance of Eileen Drewery filling the void as the Middlesbrough puffer.

That is not to say Gascoigne performed badly. He put in a quite respectable display, barely wasting a ball. But if Bryan Robson is right in claiming that Gascoigne is now back to full fitness, though, one really does have grounds for worry. Either he is badly misguided or Gascoigne's body has suffered more self-inflicted damage than any of us have imagined.

This was the England midfield player's first league game at White Hart Lane since May 1991, and he emerged to a generous ovation. The sort of sentimental applause that home fans can afford to indulge on a former player whom they know is past his best.

Still, he was a colossus compared to Nicola Bertl who could not have played worse. Even by their own poor standards of recent times, this was shocking stuff from Tottenham.

With Middlesbrough fielding a line of five across the back, Les Ferdinand and David Ginola always had two men each to beat. The Frenchman was shackled expertly by Gianluca Festa and without him there was no outlet at all. "David was a mixture," Pleat said, presumably meaning a mixture of bad and indifferent.

Robson, his Middlesbrough counterpart, should have been delighted, but "remained defen-

TOTTENHAM 0
MIDDLESBROUGH 3
By Matt Dickinson

sive and prickly, perhaps understandably so given that his dressing-room has been portrayed as some smoke-filled den of vice where players fritter away their wages around a poker table.

"I felt we answered some questions," he said. "People keep bringing things up which is very detrimental to the club so the lads have gone out and proved what they can do on the pitch."

Their professionalism was questioned but they have made the perfect reply so far, taking heart that we are looking solid now we have five across the back. The last time



Bertl leaves Gascoigne foundering in a midfield tussle

we were in the Premiership I think we only won two away games all season and now we have won two in a week.

"Gazza has been one of better players since the start of the season. They make sarcastic remarks about not finishing games, but I am just bringing him off to protect him from being injured."

Middlesbrough's victory was fully deserved and could have been more comprehensive. Colin Calderwood was culpable for the first two goals, although Sol Campbell, who did not look fit, will not be thrilled at his contribution either. Twice the England defender could not stop Mikkel Beck providing the assists for Ricard's strikes.

The first arrived after 26 minutes when the Colombian's one-two with his Danish partner opened a gulf of space in the Tottenham defence. With Calderwood sucked out of position, Ricard could stroll through before placing his finish.

It was a clever move but one that still needed the complicity of the Tottenham defence who obliged again five minutes later. Another neat exchange between Beck and Ricard allowed the latter to once again wriggle free of Calderwood and thump an 18-yard shot past the despairing Baardsen.

Tottenham could barely escape from their own half, never mind put together a penetrating attack as their fragile confidence shattered. "We did not have that zip we had on Wednesday," Pleat said. "Our

build-up was too slow and allowed them to sit back and defend the goals.

"You try and look for reasons but it is hard. There was just no imagination at all and we did not have enough purpose. The confidence goes too quickly. Maybe some of the players are believing their own reputations although I would hope there is no complacency."

Middlesbrough could have won by more had Baardsen not produced a save of breathtaking agility to tip Beck's

United magic.....30
Mentioned cash.....30
Zola power.....31
Results, tables.....32

30-yard drive just wide. Until the final minutes, the Spurs goalkeeper had been the only home player who could depart the pitch without embarrassment.

Even he managed to spoil that achievement in the final minutes when Klinder's shot from the edge of the area squirmed through his grasp. "Not many of the players can walk away saying they have done themselves any credit," Pleat said. Make that none of them.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-5-1): E Baardsen - S Carr, G Calderwood, S Campbell, P Tramezzani - R Fox (sub), A Sinton, SSNey, N Bertl, S Clomenech (sub), C Armstrong, A Welton (sub), M Seb, D G. G. L. Ferdinand
MIDDLESBROUGH (5-3-2): M Schweszer - G Festa, C Cooper, S Vickers, G Palfrey, D Gordon - R Mustoe, P Gascoigne (sub), V Knicker, B. J. A Townsend - H Ricard (sub), M Bony, M. M. Sack (A Campbell 86 mins) Referee: S. Lunn

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Table of Italian League matches including Fiorentina vs Roma, Lazio vs Fiorentina, and Juventus vs Fiorentina.

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CARLING F.A. PREMIERSHIP logo and branding.

Table of Carling Premiership league table with columns for Home, Away, Goal, and Points.

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Table of Scottish Premier League matches including Aberdeen vs Motherwell, Celtic vs Rangers, and Hearts vs Dundee.

FIRST DIVISION

Table of Scottish First Division matches including Bolton vs Birmingham, Bradford vs Sheffield, and Crystal Palace vs Port Vale.

SECOND DIVISION

Table of Scottish Second Division matches including Bournehead vs Wigan, Burley vs Wycombe, and Chesterfield vs Walsall.

THIRD DIVISION

Table of Scottish Third Division matches including Barnet vs Hill, Brentford vs Rotherham, and Brighton vs Southend.

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Table of Non-League and National Leagues matches including Albion vs Walsley, Ryman vs Albion, and Unibond vs Albion.

POOL CHECK

Table of Pool Check matches including Albion vs Walsley, Ryman vs Albion, and Unibond vs Albion.

CONFERENCE

Table of Conference League matches including Barrow vs Hereford, Forest Green vs Kettering, and Hayes vs Doncaster.

CONFERENCE

Table of Conference League matches including Barrow vs Hereford, Forest Green vs Kettering, and Hayes vs Doncaster.

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Table of Nationwide Football League matches including Huddersfield vs Barnsley, Huddersfield vs Barnsley, and Huddersfield vs Barnsley.

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Table of Nationwide Football League matches including Huddersfield vs Barnsley, Huddersfield vs Barnsley, and Huddersfield vs Barnsley.

VERNONS NATIONAL LOTTERY GAME

RESULTS FOR SATURDAY'S MATCHES. There will be payouts on each and seven score draws.

POOL CHECK

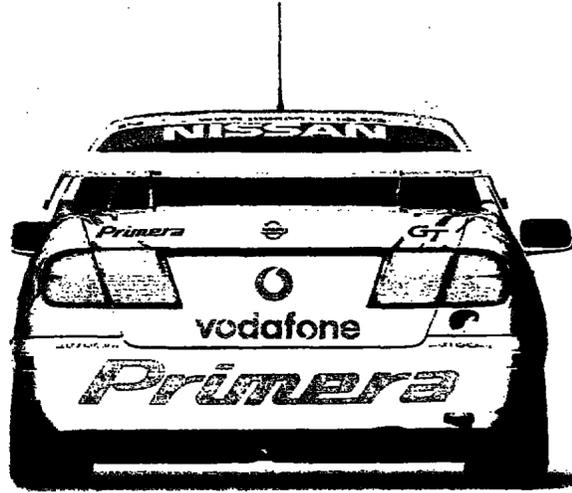
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SEPTEMBER 14
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Going out at the top is best of decisions

As he retires from first-class cricket, Dickie Bird looks back at some of the highlights and low points of his outstanding umpiring career



Final curtain: Bird prepares to take his leave at Headingley this week

A TYPICAL DISASTER

ALTHOUGH I was sad not to be involved with international cricket myself any longer, I really enjoyed going round the county circuit on a sort of farewell tour in 1997, shaking hands with all my old friends, wishing them well and saying my goodbyes.

One day, however, I stayed at the ground rather longer than I intended. Sussex were playing Essex at Hove and at the end of the day's play I came off the field, had a shower, changed and decided to wind down for a while in the umpires' room before making my way to the hotel where I was staying. David Constant was standing with me for that match and he left as soon as he had changed, taking the umpires' room key with him and locking the door as he went out. That was not a problem, because I had told him I would make my way out through the back door, which led into the area where the groundsman kept his mower, cutters, rollers etc.

However, when I eventually made my way through the back to the outer door, it was locked. Peter Eaton, the head groundsman, who would undoubtedly have a key, had long since gone. So had the girl on the switchboard. So had all the office staff. Everybody had gone. Except Dickie Bird. And he was locked in. I

spent more than two hours in there, banging on the door and shouting: "Help! Help! Let me out. Let me out." It was ten past nine when the security guards finally heard me as they did their rounds. Was I relieved when they released me? I thought I was going to have to spend the entire night in there - and I hadn't even got a toothbrush.

The next day, when Conny and I walked out at five minutes to 11, all the Essex players lined up and clapped me on to the field. Obviously, the story had got round. You simply can't keep anything quiet in cricket circles.

I've been at grounds very early in the morning, as you well know, but that was the latest I'd stayed on at night - except, of course, for the 1975 World Cup final between Australia and the West Indies at Lord's, when they were still playing at five minutes to nine.

IN BED? NOT LIKELY

I ONCE appeared on *The Big Breakfast* and they wanted to interview me in bed with a fellow called Lily Savage.

"No way," I said. They argued: "But we've interviewed Gary Lineker, Frank Bruno and your mate Ian Botham on that bed and they had no objection."

I said: "Well, you're not getting Dickie Bird in there. I can tell you that now. I'm not go-

ing to leap into bed with a bloke dressed up in a wig and a nightie and wearing lashings of make-up. If you want to interview me, then you'll have to do it while I'm sitting on a chair. Otherwise, I'm taking the train back to Barnsley." So that's what they did. I wasn't going to stand for any of that in-the-bed nonsense.

THE AUSTRALIANS

I STOOD at Tests featuring the Australians in the early Seventies, when Ian Chappell was captain. They had a great side in those days, including those two magnificent fast bowlers, Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson, with Max Walker a very fine support bowler. Variety was provided by Ashley Mallett, one of the best off spinners at the time. With those two top-notch brothers, the Chappells, in the middle order, and a great wicketkeeper in Rodney Marsh, there was a solid backbone to a superb team.

I have always admired the Australian approach to the game. They are always so totally dedicated. You can never write them off, they are so competitive.

People have complained to me about the Aussies' sledging, but I can say that I have had no problems whatsoever with that from any Australian Test player. I treated them as professional men and found

that, in return, they were straight and honest with me.

THAT JAMAICA PITCH

AT THE first Test in Jamaica last winter, which was abandoned because of the poor state of the pitch, I felt very sorry for the people from England who had paid a lot of money to go all that way to watch a Test match, only for it to be called off.

I do not blame the West Indian authorities, though, and certainly not the groundstaff. It was a reaid pitch and they came unstuck with it. You can never tell in such situations. Some pitches can look really rough before a Test and yet play magnificently, but on this one there was a remarkable amount of uneven bounce.

If I had been umpiring, I would have allowed play to go on a little bit longer - until the ball got soft - then I would have had another look at how the pitch was playing. However, to be fair, you have to take into consideration the safety of the players. That is the prime concern and that is what the umpires did. They also called the two captains and the match referee into their deliberations and all were agreed that they had to come off.

Looking back, it would have been better to play the Test on a pitch that had not been reaid. They always say you should leave a new pitch for

four or five years to settle. On the other hand, the pitch at Port of Spain, Trinidad, which had also been reaid, developed into a very good one after "doing a bit" early on and the last two pitches, in Barbados and Antigua, were two of the best I've ever seen.

UMPIRE'S FAREWELL

AT THE end of that 1997 season, I received a letter from the England and Wales Cricket Board congratulating me on my standard of umpiring and asking me to stay on for another year. My marks had been tremendous and I honestly thought that I had umpired as well as ever. That got me to thinking that maybe I had made a mistake. Maybe I had retired from international cricket too soon. Maybe I should have gone out against Australia in the summer of 1997.

However, life is all ifs and buts. I could have gone on, had a stinker of a season and made a fool of myself. As it is, the last Test I did - England v India at Lord's - was one of the best I have ever done from an umpiring point of view, so I went out on a high note, at the top and at Lord's, just like I always wanted.

© Dickie Bird

Extracts from *Dickie Bird: My Autobiography* (£5.99 paperback, published by Hodder and Stoughton).

Stay-in-bed Tudor must prove he can rise to the occasion

MICHAEL HENDERSON



Quite the funniest thing this early autumn, apart from Mark Nicholas's appalling attempt to play the "air guitar" at Willis's summer shindig, was the startling confession of young Alex Tudor. The ferociously fast Surrey bowler heard of his selection for the Australia tour as he was lolling under the covers.

"I was in bed," our brilliant new pace bowler said, "and my dad told me to turn on the television." Hang on a minute.

The England team was announced at 10.30am and Tudor was still in bed? Are we to take it that this young chap, not yet 21, couldn't be bothered to turn back the duvet and greet the morning when such good news was imminent? This followed Ben Hollis' tipping up 50 minutes late for a net before the Oval Test.

No matter what one thinks of Tudor's selection, and it seems a bit dicey given his fitness record, this confession really is an eye-opener. "I have to grab the opportunity and show what I can do," young Tudor said. By heck, lad, you're learning! The first thing you can do is to get up with the birds - unless you've had a night on the tiles, in which case you can lie in until 9am.

I don't think I'm breaching any diplomatic secrets if I reveal exclusively that young men have it much too easy these days. Veludi Menthin, once described by George Steiner as "the best-loved performer in the history of the performing arts", still practises the fiddle three hours every day - and he's almost as old as Bradman.

David Suchet, who is shortly to play Salieri in Peter Hall's revival of *Amadeus*, reckoned it took him 375 hours to learn his lines. Three hundred and seventy-five hours! Why, even Michael Atherton could make a century in that time. Just remember that the next time some dimwit calls actors "luvvies". But young Tudor, fagged with the exhaustion of bowling 184 overs this

ing bowler. Injury held him back and prevented him from developing into the bowler his admirers wanted him to be.

There was some talk of him getting the nod for Australia this time, but it was a bit fanciful, really. His opportunity came and went, as opportunities tend to. They cannot be redeemed years later, like insurance policies.

The last Ashes party included Martin McCague, who was - is - capable of bowling pretty quickly. He fell by the wayside, as have Richard Johnson and Glen Chapple, who were earmarked for stardom at an early age. Chris Lewis we know about. Alan Ward, Ken Shuttleworth, Paul Jarvis - it's a long list.

Every now and then, something clicks. Bob Willis was plucked out of obscurity in 1970 to go to Australia and was not significantly harmed by early promotion. But the litter of broken English bowlers is almost as numerous as the wreckage on Napoleon's retreat from Moscow.

Bob Cottam, the England bowling coach, is making noises about Tudor's pace and willingness to learn. He may be right. Tudor may explode all over Australia - but if he comes home crooked, wicketless and a bit shell-shocked, don't say I didn't warn you.



Morning stretch: Tudor, the late-rising England recruit

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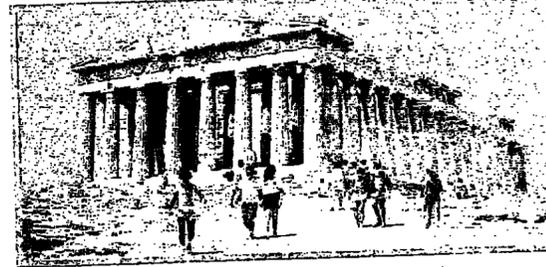
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Fares from Scotland and Belfast to London Luton are also £22 single and £34 return. *Fare includes a £14.50 departure tax from Athens and the UK departure tax.

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CHANGING TIMES

Commonwealth Games: England medal-winners halt Australian domination of swimming events

Hickman consoled by silver

FROM CRAIG LORD IN KUALA LUMPUR

A LESSER man might have crumbled, but on a night when Australia claimed the first world record of the Commonwealth Games...

more than half a second but put his team well inside the record pace set by Russia at the Olympic Games in 1992.



Celebrations for the record-breaking Australian quartet. Thorpe, left, embraces Klim and Dunn hugs Kowalski



Hickman is astonished at his disqualification

That left the medley a battle between Hickman, 22, and two Australians, delightfully named Trent Steed and Zane King.

man said, explaining his false start. "I heard a clicking noise behind me and I was really hyped. I just went. It was surreal. I just couldn't believe he was pulling me from the race."

cut the deficit before a sensational last turn that left him at Steed's waist.

third. Hickman, who had held the Games record for a few minutes before Huegill took it from him in the morning heats, said the final times suggested he would could have won the silver medal at the very least.

clean sweep of golds when she led for the first 150 metres of the 200 metres freestyle final.

Stunned Parke suffers second-round exit

SIMON PARKE, the British champion and England No 1, was surprisingly beaten in the second round of the men's squash singles at the Games yesterday.

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

his sixth Commonwealth Games, it was a desperately unhappy weekend. He felt snubbed by Colin McEachran, the team manager, who asked Doug Walker, an athlete, to carry the team flag at the opening ceremony.

and dropped a treble on the replay to lose by one.

The shooting events produced two gold medals for England. First, Nigel Wallace and Chris Hector won the first gold after scoring 1,173 points in the pairs men's air rifle event.

England dominated both periods of play but it was the Kenyans who looked the more constructive side, despite their lack of finishing power.

England remained on course for the semi-finals of the Commonwealth Games tournament yesterday, with their 3-1 victory over Kenya giving them a total of four points from two matches.

SCHEDULE table with columns for TODAY and TOMORROW, listing various sports events like Swimming, Boxing, Cricket, Cycling, Hockey, Lawn Bowls, Netball, Rugby, Shooting, Squash, and Tennis.

Australia avenge earlier reverse

Rob Hughes reports on a narrow England defeat and the bravery of one young competitor



A tearful Murdock is comforted by Poppa after a tumble

ENGLAND lost a compelling contest for gold against Australia in the women's team gymnastics yesterday evening. It ended on the final element of the four apparatus when a balletic display of balance and artistry on the beam, by 16-year-old Lisa Mason, from Aylesbury, was not quite enough.

distress, but could not turn away. It got worse. Murdock rehearsed her next routine, the floor exercise, leapt high, and landed on the nape of her neck.

Later the more experienced, but scarcely bigger girls in a sport where 50 kilos is a handicap, overtook Northern Ireland, who eventually finished sixth.

BARCLAYCARD advertisement featuring the logo, text 'Proud sponsors of Britain's medal material', and a photo of a discus thrower.

ROWING

Redgrave adds to collection

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT IN COLOGNE

GREAT Britain ended the world championships with three gold medals, a silver and two fourth places from the 11 boats that reached finals...

Results

Steve Redgrave, for whom the win produced his eighth world gold medal to go with his four Olympic titles, agreed: "I expected to go faster. The way we train, on our day no-one can beat us...



Page of RGS High Wycombe, scores his side's opening try in their narrow defeat of St Edward's, Oxford

St Edward's made to pay penalty

THERE have been some epic rugby matches between St Edward's, Oxford, and RGS High Wycombe over the years...

John Goodbody on a typically close encounter between two sides who again look set for plenty more cheer this season



Kicked St Edward's into a 3-0 lead, RGS besieged their opponent's line for 15 minutes, but broke through only once when Adam Page scored...

Last year, St Edward's won 23-22, with their opponents once dropping the ball when they were over the line. Both schools were immensely successful in 1997-98...

and they have clearly benefited from the experience in South Africa. Alex Melrose, the RGS captain, said: "They have got it right in South Africa. I doubt whether we will see in this country that sort of passion, particularly off the pitch..."

McEwen's example. Although they were overwhelmed in the lineouts, they often dominated the scrummages. They covered every attack twice over and lost only because they conceded penalties through high tackling...

BOXING

Schwer eyes WBC title after easy victory

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

BILLY SCHWER, the European lightweight champion, can look forward to a challenger for the World Boxing Council (WBC) world championship early next year...

Mickey Duff, Schwer's manager, said yesterday that José Sulaimán, the WBC president, had told him that the Luton boxer would be given the No 1 spot if he impressed against the Frenchman...

Fernandes was never in the contest, as Schwer took control from the first bell. The Frenchman complained about a sore right ear in the fifth round and the doctor had to be called to check if he was able to continue.

When the Frenchman doubled up in the seventh round, after two blows to the stomach, the referee quickly stepped in and called a halt to proceedings.

SPEEDWAY

Americans secure future with team win

By TONY HOARRE

GREG HANCOCK and Billy Hamill have been given a welcome boost by their main sponsor after winning the World Team Cup final for the United States...

Summers caused speculation when he made an announcement last month that Hancock's place in the team was in jeopardy, but he has hinted now that an announcement this week will include both riders for next year...

Hancock and Hamill fulfilled an ambition that dated back to their junior racing days when they finished clear of the field in the World Team Cup at Vejens, Denmark...

"We both said before the meeting that this was our last chance of a gold medal this year," Hancock, who is level on points with Hamill going into the final world championship grand prix, said.

Carefully prepared by Colin Tattersall, the first man in the country to coach two different divisions at under-16 level, RGS have 1,400 boys from whom to draw for school teams...

After James Forrester, the Oxford County player, had kicked St Edward's into a 3-0 lead, RGS besieged their opponent's line for 15 minutes, but broke through only once when Adam Page scored...

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

Table listing various sports events for the week ahead, including Rugby League, Rugby Union, Football, and other sports.

Advertisement for 'SHEEHAN on BRIDGE' by Robert Sheehan.

Advertisement for 'KEENE on CHESS' by Raymond Keene.

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT. This week I will be discussing slam bidding techniques. The first specialised bid I want to describe is the 'advance cue bid'...

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT. Warm up. In preparation for his match against Alexei Shirov for his world title, Garry Kasparov contested a six game match with the Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman in Prague...

Bridge hand analysis section showing a deal with West and East hands and a diagram of the final position.

Chess section featuring a Slav Defence game between Garry Kasparov and Jan Timman, with a diagram of the final position.

WORD-WATCHING section by Philip Howard, listing words like ZUGUNRUHE, TANGELO, SEDEKAH, and SOWLTH with their meanings.

WINNING MOVE section by Raymond Keene, discussing chess tactics and a winning move in a game.

PLUMPTON section listing various horse racing events and handicaps.

SOUTHERN FM NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE and SOUTHERN FM LISTENERS HANDICAP HURDLE sections listing horse racing events.

Answers to word-watching and winning move sections.

Solution to the winning move chess problem.

Additional horse racing handicaps and events.

COURSE SPECIALISTS section listing horse racing events.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring 'Godol' and 'Sea W' logos and other text.

Customers are now free to choose their supplier in a long-awaited liberalisation of the power industry, writes David Young

Electricity on tap from the gasman

From this morning electricity bills will never be the same again for 750,000 consumers. Instead of coming from their local electricity board, as they always have done, they could arrive from the gas board or the water board.

Consumers in Motherwell could buy their power from Eastern Electricity in Ipswich and customers will be given the freedom of choice in an upheaval of the market first promised when the industry was privatised a decade ago.

Several thousands of consumers have already made inquiries about changing their supplier as the marketing campaigns have been launched over the past months. Sales teams have been explaining how consumers will have been given a meter number by their existing supplier and told of the planned changes.

Exactly how many will change suppliers is difficult to

gauge, but even those who elect to stay with their existing suppliers — and analysts suggest that more than 90 per cent may do so — will inevitably benefit from increased competition in the shape of lower bills and better service.

Experience in the telecommunications market after its liberalisation has shown that a substantial number of consumers are prepared to shop around and switch suppliers — perhaps as many as five per cent in the first few weeks. Analysts who have been watching the market suggest that these same people will be the first to switch suppliers, so it is clear that the numbers involved by the end of this year when the electricity deregulation is completed are immense.

The opening up of the gas market has shown that large commercial customers are ready to switch, but domestic customers have been more cautious. In addition fewer play-

ers have emerged in the domestic gas market than was anticipated, largely because companies producing gas from the North Sea already have access to large industrial and power-generation markets in Britain and to the industrial markets of mainland Europe.

In some cases the most successful entrants to the domestic gas market have been the regional electricity companies who now have access to a wider range of consumers. It is, therefore, inevitable that the consumer will benefit from the deregulated market, with many attractive offers for combined electricity and gas packages about to come through the letterbox.

The domestic electricity market is more accessible and safeguards for customers have been put in place with the establishment of a Code of Conduct by the Electricity Association, which has also developed the complex metering

system which will make sure that customers receive accurate billing. Overall the electricity supply industry has spent £1.2 billion to ensure deregulation goes smoothly.

The first customers to be able to choose are those in Norfolk with NR postcodes in the Norwich area, those in the Chester area with CH postcodes, those in the Hull area with HU postcodes and those in the Motherwell area with ML postcodes.

"These are exciting times," says John Roberts, the president of the Electricity Association. "The UK is leading the way on electricity competition. The world is watching, as many other countries anticipate following our lead into full liberalisation."

"Setting up the infrastructure to allow 26 million customers to change suppliers as and when they wish has been an IT project equivalent to creating the high street banks'



Power players: Regulator Stephen Littlechild, John Battle, Energy Minister, and John Roberts, of the Electricity Association

clearing system from scratch. "The market brings exciting opportunities both for the companies competing in it and for the customers whose business they are trying to win. It is important to remember that

domestic customers have already enjoyed price reductions of 23 per cent, after allowing for inflation, since 1990. This is due to substantially increased efficiency in power generation and the success of RPI-X regu-

lation. A fully competitive electricity supply market should drive prices down further, but because of the savings already realised, the degree of reductions will be less than when the gas market was fully opened earlier this year.

"Its success should be measured in the creation of a lasting market which, over the longer term, is more effective in delivering better service, greater choice and lower prices to the customer than would be achieved by regulation alone. It will happen because of the continued drive for efficiency and innovation within the existing industry, and among new entrants to the market.

"The electricity industry is determined that the market is successful. Customers come

first and it would be wrong to expose them to an identifiable risk of system errors: at market start-up, companies have invested not far short of £1 billion on designing, installing and rigorously testing the systems to back up this commitment.

"The systems have been thoroughly tested and are robust, but that is not to claim that there will be no teething troubles. If these should arise, companies are prepared to act swiftly and decisively to deal with them.

"Companies marketing electricity and gas services will observe both voluntary and statutory codes to protect customers from unethical practices, and this should enable them to make their choice with confidence."

SEEBOARD

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SEEBOARD

Who will get the top dog's job?

Craig Seton on the government plan to appoint a super-regulator

The Government is expected soon to name the person scheduled to become the new super-regulator responsible for the gas and electricity industries.

The all-in-one energy regulator will take over as Director-General of Gas Supply when the present incumbent, Clare Spottiswoode — the head of the industry watchdog Ofgas — leaves in November at the end of her five year contract.

John Battle, the Energy Minister, has made it clear that whoever succeeds Spottiswoode is likely also to be appointed Director-General of Electricity Supply in due course as the Government is considering legislation to create the single post of energy regulator, probably next year.

Professor Stephen Littlechild, the Director-General of Electricity Supply and head of the watchdog body Offer, has agreed to leave his post, which he has held for ten years, when the new appointment is made. It is expected that the

new regulator, who gets £120,000 a year, will be Callum McCarthy, a merchant banker. The Government says a single post is necessary because of the rising convergence of the gas and electricity markets, driven by competition, with firms from the two sectors now marketing both fuels. On the face of it the new all-in-one regulator's task looks less onerous than that which faced the separate gas and electricity watchdogs, which have had to oversee their sectors on the difficult road to full competition after privatisation. They have enjoyed differing fortunes since the posts were set up ten years ago.

Spottiswoode has presided over a domestic gas market that was fully deregulated — and producing lower bills for consumers — by May. That has been painful for British Gas, which was forced to give up its monopoly. Littlechild, on the other hand, had to postpone the start of open competition in the mass electricity market since last April because only four of the 14 regional electricity companies were ready for competitive trading. This added to the impression that Offer never quite got the hang of dealing with the fleet-footed electricity firms, which have done well out of privatisation. Both regulators can claim,

though, that their offices have already given a kener price deal to consumers and improved services.

In the run-up to belated open competition a domestic electricity, Littlechild — clearly disappointed that his sector will lag a year behind gas — has been acting to ensure that consumers enjoy lower prices and are protected from some of the unacceptable sales and marketing practices and hard-sell doorstep techniques that happened when the gas market was opened to competition. He has introduced price restraints to reduce tariffs for smaller customers by about 9 per cent in real terms over the two years from April.

And in July he announced a new licence condition for suppliers covering training of sales staff, compensation arrangements for victims of malpractice and the rights of consumers to cancel contracts.

The regulator says most suppliers have been marketing responsibly, but some of the 14

electricity consumer committee that monitor the regional electricity companies and represent customer interests reported cases where consumers were deliberately misled or used improper selling techniques.

The committee, although independent bodies, work closely with Offer and have a crucial role in overseeing the introduction of full competition in the domestic market. The Gas Consumers Council has played a similar role in deregulation of the gas market.

In addition to negotiating the watchdog regimes for gas and electricity, the Government says that the new super-regulator will be expected to drive forward initiatives spawned by its Green Paper on utility regulation (which also covers water and telecommunications). It set up a modern framework for assessing and monitoring the utilities and places greater emphasis on customers.

John Battle has made it clear that the new customer focus is a top priority for the Government. He told the industry earlier this month: "From now on customers will drive companies to deliver real competition. Their choice will determine the companies' futures."



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THE TIMES MAGAZINE

How

David Young

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How will it work for you?

David Young
on the planning
that went into
the launch
of the change

Your postcode will determine how soon you can choose to buy your electricity from a different supplier. In any event, freedom of choice will be available to all 26 million domestic consumers from the start of 1999, but already the sales and marketing campaigns have started.

However, before the electricity suppliers could start to sign up customers a massive system has had to be put in place to make sure that customers are billed properly so that the promised savings get through.

The programme of deregulation was formally launched in the autumn of 1995 when the Director-General of Electricity Supply appointed the PA Consulting Group as the overall programme manager to co-ordinate the work of various committees and sub-committees which had been formed. PA Consulting played an essential role in proposing ways forward in a number of areas, including the testing and integration of various systems. High-level groups involving the regulator, the supply companies and consumer groups have since met regularly to keep the programme on track. A Competitive Supply Code Executive, a Competitive Supply Code Forum and various other working groups solved many problems as they arose and by September 1996 a Central Integration and Design Authority was established to draw up a final schedule for deregulation. It must also ensure the overall integrity of the metering system which will enable next-door neighbours to



All firms compete on a level playing field so suppliers must provide a variety of services to enable customers to change supplier

buy their electricity from different suppliers while at the same time retaining the same consumers' rights.

Meanwhile the Electricity Pool of England and Wales, which runs the wholesale electricity market between the generators and the suppliers, has been responsible for developing fresh trading arrangements, contracts, rules and procedures which will allow the market to operate. The Pool appointed Cap Gemini, the IT services company, to manage the new trading and settlement system, and the company also developed a

metering point registration system which is essential for accurate billing. It is this system which will register the meter and supplier for every one of the 26 million electricity customers. The process also involved the Office for Electricity Regulation (Ofreg) and by September last year the various licence changes and codes of conduct were close to their final form.

The result is that all suppliers in the market must compete on a level playing field and this means that the Public Electricity Suppliers (PESs) must provide a variety of ser-

ices to enable customers to change supplier.

These will include registering new customers in their area who choose another supplier and arranging for collecting meter readings for the new suppliers, which has meant changing computer systems

and in some cases providing new hardware and software.

The PESs are also required to make their pre-payment meter networks available to competing suppliers. This has been welcomed by consumer organisations who have long argued that pre-payment

customers are at a disadvantage because they are unable to achieve the savings that are offered to consumers who pay bills by direct debit, and that this type of customer has been locked into buying energy at a comparatively high rate. Whether this sector of the market will hold out any attractions to suppliers remains to be seen, but linking this type of customer into other product sales is possible and bad debt in the electricity market is not a major issue. In fact, out of 26 million consumers fewer than 500 had their supplies cut off for non-payment last year.

The supply industry accepts that the full competition benefits of a deregulated market will not be realised until a large number of consumers switch suppliers - Offer suggests that between 5 and 10 per cent will switch by 2000, while management consultants Coopers & Lybrand are more optimistic and suggest that between 22 to 30 per cent of consumers will change suppliers within two years.

It has been decided, therefore, that some form of regulation will be retained to drive the market before competition becomes fully effective and that price restraints will remain in place in the transitional period.

When will competition become fully effective? That can only be guessed at, but since the market for larger industrial and commercial users was liberalised 43 per cent of those consumers now buy their power from suppliers other than their local regional electricity company.

Pay up for a green future

Craig Seton on how consumers can aid ecological researchers

While tens of thousands of electricity consumers are changing their suppliers, at least one of the big power firms is giving some of its customers the chance to eschew any savings from competition and opt to pay more for their fuel. It is not a case of marketing managers at Eastern Electricity taking leave of their commercial senses, but the firm's plan to give customers the option to contribute directly to the development of "green" electricity from renewable sources.

Eastern is marketing two new tariffs, EcoPower and EcoPower Plus, which add either a 5 or 10 per cent supplement to bills, equivalent to an additional £15 or £30 a year on an average domestic bill of £300.

The company says it will match pound for pound the additional payments made by customers up to a total of £1 million over two years.

Funds raised are to be deposited in a charitable trust and used to support electricity generation schemes, including wind, wave and solar power, and research into renewable generation. Launched in Eastern's area last year, the scheme's first customers have signed up, although no figures are

to hand. It will be available to consumers nationwide when electricity competition is fully rolled out over the next year in Britain. Eastern has set a target of having 10,000 EcoPower customers by October 1999.

The company says the project, which is backed by Friends of the Earth, is part of the commitment of its generation business to produce at least 10 per cent of its power from renewable resources by the year 2010.

The Government is investigating how a similar target can be achieved for power generation in the UK. The present level of "green" generation is only 2 per cent.

An Eastern official says that EcoPower is a niche product that is likely to be taken up only by those people who are determined to do their bit for renewable energy. The company's research suggests that up to 45,000 of its existing consumers may have some interest in paying extra.

Specialist "green" energy companies are already active in the electricity market. The Renewable Energy Company, based in Stroud, Gloucestershire, was established in 1996 and markets power generated from landfill gas.

The freedom to choose a supplier

Three-quarters of a million householders and small business users in four areas of Britain win the freedom to choose their electricity supplier and opt for lower fuel bills when the first phase of full competition in the market begins today, writes Craig Seton.

They represent 10 per cent of customers of Eastern Electricity in towns such as Norwich and Lowestoft; of Manweb in Chester and Mold; of Scottish Power in Motherwell and Lanark and of Yorkshire Electricity in Hull and Beverley, identified by their postcode, who can - if they wish - now take supplies from one of the other three power firms involved in phase one or from British Gas, the former state-owned monopoly, which is entering the domestic electricity supply market for the first time. Full competition across these areas is being introduced in three stages lasting six months. Deregulation across the whole of Britain is not scheduled to be completed until June next year. The evidence of the past few

A new tranche of householders can save on their bills

months suggests that consumers will not hesitate to switch to a cheaper supplier, and tens of thousands of households and small businesses have done so in the phase one areas or have signed contracts with new companies in advance of full competition.

Yorkshire Electricity, for instance, says it has won 100,000 electricity customers outside its area. And British Gas claims that by last week 400,000 households in many areas of Britain had signed contracts to take its domestic electricity supplies.

British Gas says another 1.5 million households have already expressed an interest in taking its electricity supplies. It is about to launch a big marketing campaign in an attempt

to take more customers away from their existing suppliers, and in a fully competitive market it hopes to sell electricity to between 2.5 million and 3.5 million consumers. The opening of the former monopoly's own domestic gas market to competition two years ago clearly demonstrates that customers want lower fuel bills. British Gas has lost three million of its customers - 15 per cent - to new players in gas supply, including regional electricity companies and firms such as Amerada, a subsidiary of Amerada Hess Corporation, the gas and oil giant with operations in the North Sea.

Another one million customers of British Gas are estimated to have signed contracts in advance of changing to another supplier. Amerada's vigorous marketing campaign is typical of the intense competition that British Gas has faced in trying to cling to its former monopoly customer base.

Amerada says that consumers switching to the company can make savings of up to £85 a year on a £500 British Gas bill, depending on which of its tariff and payment options is chosen. The firm's offers include an Air Miles deal and options for NatWest credit and charge card holders.

Average domestic gas bills are about £13 a year and according to Dr Eileen Marshall, the deputy director of gas supply at Ofgas, the industry regulator, "independent figures show that some customers can save up to 20 per cent on their gas bills by changing supplier - equivalent to more than £60 off the average bill."

The scale of savings on electricity bills through switching supplier are unlikely to be as high as they have been in gas. Professor Stephen Littlechild, the Director-General of Ofreg, says that consumers were already benefiting from lower electricity bills as the industry prepared for the open market fray. Offer says the average real charge for a typical domestic customer fell by 5 per cent last year and in order to give domestic customers bigger savings, the regulator has introduced price restraints in tariffs of about 9 per cent over the two years that started last April.

The marketing for electricity customers will undoubtedly intensify as competition sweeps through the domestic marketplace. Midlands Electricity, which is not set to join the competition until next month, has already announced that it is expanding its field sales force by 300 people as it too sets out to win new business and defend its existing customer base.

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BUSINESS

ECONOMY 49

Roger Bootle on falling interest rates



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14 1998

Ministers press Philips on threat to 2,000 workers

By Alasdair Murray and Adam Jones

THE GOVERNMENT is holding urgent talks with Philips...

concentration of high-tech inward investment in the region...

to the Government, with a number of senior ministers...

push into the new market for digital television.

ish Army, but work is being scaled down.

also expected to consider making jobs at GKN's factory at Telford...

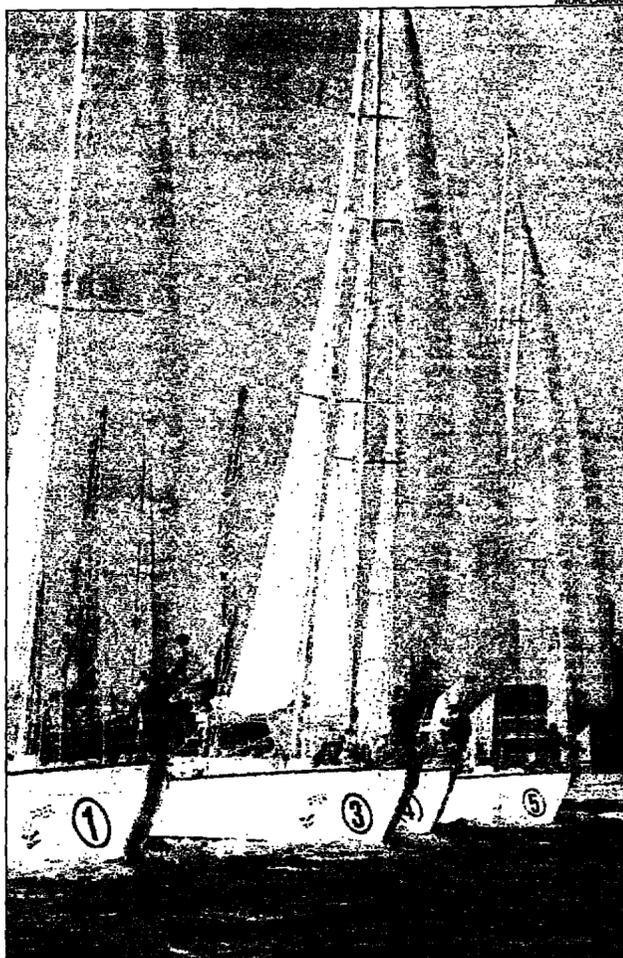
Unions fear open season for job losses

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

HUNDREDS OF thousands of jobs in manufacturing will be lost...

tions that 500,000 jobs would have to go if the Government...

spectrum. The free market-oriented Institute of Directors...



Clipper Ventures, chaired by Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, used the International Boat Show...

G7 expected to reject new Russian plea

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

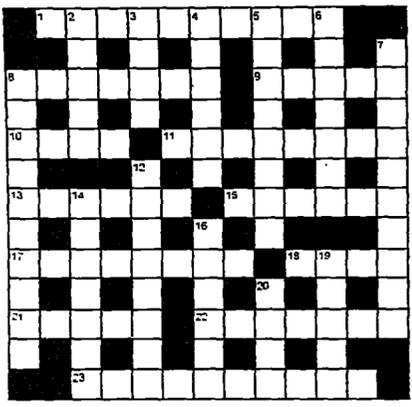
REPRESENTATIVES of the G7 group of nations are today expected to reject Russian pleas...

charge of the central bank during the period of hyperinflation...

Goldman lags behind its rivals

GOLDMAN Sachs, the Wall Street investment bank that last week said it was ploughing ahead...

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1510

- ACROSS: 1 Come to bad conclusion (2,5) 5 Unacceptably different (7) 9 Dried coconut (5) 10 Fish; part of shoe (4) 11 Feeling sick/offensive (5) 13 Horse-rider (6) 15 Ornamental cave (6) 17 Blend, merge (5) 18 Studious pupil (4) 21 Rye-affecting fungus (5) 22 In a perfect world (7) 23 Salvation: conversion into cash (10)

- SOLUTION TO NO 1509 ACROSS: 4 Pivot 7 Original 8 Sand 9 Gertrude 10 Repeat 13 Foment 14 Haful 15 Smithy 18 Watchful 19 Park 20 Balmoral 21 Hanoi DOWN: 1 Solace 2 Girdle 3 Fingal 4 Platform 5 Virulent 6 Talent 11 Petition 12 Abu Dhabi 14 Howdah 15 Solemn 16 Impure 17 Hurdle SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO MONDAY HOLIDAY JUMBO ACROSS: 1 Acuser 5 Charge card 10 Marjoram 16 Numerical 17 Crown 18 Clandestine 19 Glory, Glory, Hallelujah! 20 Touse 22 Nosty 23 Quendle 24 Sitting tenant 26 Unromantic 28 Tote 29 Side effect 33 Orestia 34 Disproving 36 Inhibit 39 Steak and kidney pie 41 Augustine 42 Serenaded 44 Piece de resistance 46 Overfly 47 Chartrouse 48 Stripped 51 Superpower 53 Farm 55 Self-regard 58 Disengagement 59 Socratic 61 Fiji 63 Swoons 64 Collective bargaining 66 Work wonders 67 Points 68 Mainframe 69 Sideral 70 New England 71 Greater DOWN: 1 Annigoni 2 Common sense 3 Strays 4 Recalculation 5 Chlorinate 6 Alcohol 7 Goodliest 8 Conversation piece 9 Reagents 11 Aide 12 Just one of those things 13 Reinstate 14 Meekest 15 Law-abiding 21 Agreeing 25 Not take no for an answer 27 Child's play 30 Title deeds 31 Horseshoes 32 Five senses 35 Present participle 37 Barm 38 Skid 40 Eyrie 41 Apex 43 Day-to-day 45 Intermingling 47 Crispe-soled 49 Participant 50 Clear as mud 52 Fiston rod 54 Misgiving 56 Deceased 57 King Lear 58 Disowns 60 Chelsea 62 Riffle 65 Inca

More employers forecast strikes

By Our Industrial Correspondent

STRIKES and other industrial action will increase over the next year, with the public sector hardest hit.

ter mark. Sadly this does not appear to be the case.

Buffett defies market turmoil with 25% rise

From Oliver August in New York



Warren Buffett, the Sage of Omaha, has emerged as an unlikely winner from the recent stock market turmoil...

believed to have significantly changed his equity portfolio this summer.

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